60th Anniversary of India's Independence

15 August 2007

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1907
1947
2007
जय हिन्द

Lok Sabha Secretariat
New Delhi

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

15 AUGUST 2007

सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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August, 2007

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PREFACE

Today, along with the nation, the Parliament of India is celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of India's Independence. As part of the celebrations, a Commemorative Function is being held in the Central Hall of Parliament House, the same hallowed hall from where the saga of Independent India commenced on the midnight of 14-15 August 1947.

This Brochure brings together the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly of India of 14-15 August 1947 and Broadcasts by the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and the President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, on 15 August 1947. The Brochure also carries the Address by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru after hoisting the National Flag at the Red Fort. Photo images of the Press coverage of the Independence Day Celebrations and select photographs capturing those historic moments are also included in this Brochure.

We are deeply beholden to the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the Hon'ble Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, for their inspiring Messages incorporated in this publication. We are also grateful to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Shri K.G. Balakrishnan; Hon'ble Leader of the House, Lok Sabha, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; and Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, for enriching this publication by their invaluable Messages.

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the cooperation extended by the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, and the National Archives of India, in making available several documents included in this publication.

We trust that this Brochure will provide a glimpse into the momentous events of the transfer of power and the dawn of freedom on 14-15 August 1947.

P.D.T. ACHARY,
Secretary-General,
Lok Sabha

New Delhi,
15 August, 2007

MESSAGES

सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रपति
भारत गणतंत्र
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF INDIA

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the Lok Sabha is organising a commemorative function to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of India's Independence on August 15, 2007.

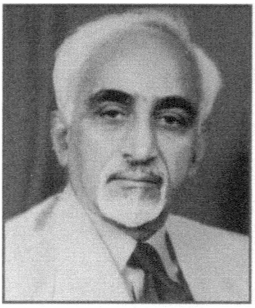
As the nation celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of our Independence, let us gratefully remember the Freedom Fighters and martyrs who laid down their lives for the cause of Independence. Let us also remember those women freedom fighters who took part shoulder to shoulder with others in this struggle. I am sure that the celebrations will inspire all our men and women to face the challenges before the nation and work together in unity.

I wish the Celebrations all success.

Pratibha Patil

New Delhi
7 August 2007

(PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL)



सत्यमेव जयते

उप-राष्ट्रपति, भारत
VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that a function is being organised on the 15th August, 2007 in the Central Hall of Parliament to celebrate the sixtieth Anniversary of India's Independence.

Anniversaries are occasions for recollection and reaffirmation. During the last sixty years we have made rapid strides in diverse sectors of our national life within the framework of parliamentary democracy. Through constitutional means, we have sought to provide distributive justice to all our people. Regular elections have ensured peaceful transition of governments. Today, India stands proud and tall as the largest working democracy in the world. Even as we rejoice in our varied accomplishments, we must simultaneously acknowledge that we have a long way to go in realizing the dreams of our founding fathers and of those who laid down their lives to secure freedom for the country.

On this historic occasion let us pay our humble tributes to our freedom fighters and rededicate ourselves to the lofty ideals and profound vision that they cherished.

May the flame that they had lit guide us eternally.

(MOHD. HAMID ANSARI)

New Delhi
12 August 2007

सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री
PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE

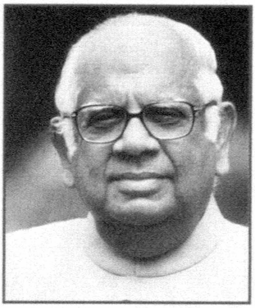
Speaking in these very premises 60 years ago, in the early hours of the 15th of August, 1947, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru spoke of our "tryst with destiny" and reminded the members of the Constituent Assembly, in this very Central Hall, that the responsibility of redeeming the pledge that our freedom fighters had made to our people "rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India".

Independent India's greatest contribution, in these 60 years, has been to demonstrate that a poor people living in a post-colonial developing economy can in fact seek their social and economic salvation within the framework of an open society and an open economy. India is a functioning democracy. It is a truly plural, liberal, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and secular democracy. The success of the Indian experiment in pursuing economic development, social and political empowerment within the framework of a secular and democratic Constitution, with respect for the rule of law and for fundamental human rights has earned for our country a special place in the comity of nations.

The Parliament of India is a great symbol of our democracy. It is here that the hopes and aspirations of our people find reflection. It is here that we discharge our responsibility, as their representatives, to steer the ship of the State through waters rough and calm to that shore of peace and progress that we all seek. On this 60th anniversary let us all re-affirm our commitment to work for the well-being of our people within the framework of a secular and democratic Republic. Let us always remain committed to ensuring that the Parliament of India echoes the hopes and aspirations of our people and lives up to their expectations.

Manmohan Singh

New Delhi (MANMOHAN SINGH)
27 July 2007



सत्यमेव जयते

अध्यक्ष, लोक सभा
SPEAKER, LOK SABHA

MESSAGE

Sixty years ago, on 15 August 1947, we achieved our freedom from an oppressive imperialist rule, as a result of the sacrifice and the committed struggle of our martyrs and freedom-fighters, ushering in a new era in the life and times of a millennial civilisation.

Securing independence was the culmination of the determined efforts to put an end to the exploitative colonial rule, whereby a nation of continental dimensions and myriad diversities, wrested control of their destiny to craft a future of dignity and prosperity for millions of its citizens, for human development and national wealth.

The Transfer of Power to the people of India was not without its share of traumas, upheavals and uncertainties. Aware of these complexities, the Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, opted for Parliamentary Democracy, as the most suitable framework for our political system and governance structure to realize the goal of a developed nation with equal accent on growth and equity, in which the Parliament occupies the pivotal position.

As we look back today, it is with a large measure of satisfaction, primarily at our success in consolidating Parliamentary Democracy. Parliament as the Supreme Representative Institution of the country has played the most important role in addressing many challenges before our Society and in transforming India into an economic power-house with its distinctive, inclusive, plural and caring facets.

It is fit and proper that the Parliament should observe the momentous occasion in a befitting manner, acknowledging its assigned role of serving the people with full sense of responsibility and accountability.

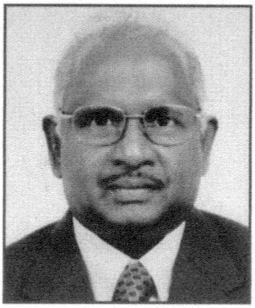
Our achievements so far, should not, however, bring on a sense of complacency. We should, more appropriately, use the occasion to introspect and reflect on the manifold tasks that lie ahead. The vision of a vibrant, dynamic democracy continuing to steer the people towards fuller realization of their aspirations must continue to guide all our endeavours, so that we can promote justice and equity for all, protect fundamental freedoms, strengthen our secular fabric and safeguard our unity and integrity in fullest measure. We must strive, as one, to work, to combat divisive and aberrant trends and be acknowledged as a country with glorious future.

On this memorable occasion, let us pay our humble homage to all those who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the nation and re-dedicate ourselves to their mission and vision of a peaceful, secular, progressive and prosperous India.

Somnath Chatterjee

(SOMNATH CHATTERJEE)

New Delhi
8 August 2007



सत्यमेव जयते

मुख्य न्यायाधीश, भारत
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

MESSAGE

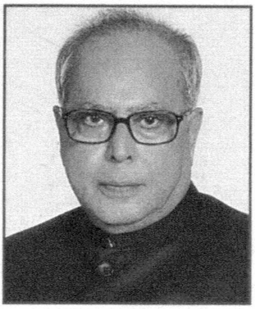
Sixty years ago, on this very day, our nation, free from the shackles of colonial rule, began life anew. It embraced freedom, which came at a high cost, that of the sacrifice of generations of our countrymen, on the altar of freedom. They sacrificed their lives, so that we would walk freely today.

Over the past sixty years, India, from a newly independent colony, has attained the status of a global superpower. We are fast matching shoulders with the most developed nations in the world, in all spheres, be it economic growth, intellect or military might. In many fields, we are standing at the threshold of even surpassing them. However, we have a long path ahead of us, and many more accolades to achieve. In this journey, we must never forget that wherever we may be, whatever may be our caste, creed or religion, we are all entwined by that invisible thread that runs through each one of our hearts—that of being an Indian. This thread binds us all; it signifies our identity and stands as a reminder of the sacrifice of our forefathers. We must cherish it, always, and work for the good of the nation.

On this glorious day, the Diamond Jubilee of India's Independence, I would like to wish all of you the very best for the future.

(K.G. BALAKRISHNAN)

New Delhi
27 July 2007



सत्यमेव जयते

सदन के नेता, लोक सभा
LEADER OF THE HOUSE,
LOK SABHA

MESSAGE

The observance of the Diamond Jubilee of India's Independence is an occasion that is suffused at once with great joy as well as solemnity. It is also an occasion to remember the contributions of the framers of our Constitution who provided the bedrock for a fledgling nation to establish itself and grow.

That India is regarded the world over as a beacon to the aspirations of people who continue to struggle for democratic values and norms is a tribute to the resilience and endurance of parliamentary democracy as we have practiced it in India. Indeed, it is on the foundations of parliamentary democracy, backed by the provisions of the Indian Constitution, that it has been possible to build strong national institutions such as a free press and an independent judiciary. The Indian Constitution is the *Magna Carta* of our parliamentary system. In the past sixty years, during which the national political landscape has evolved into significantly new directions, the Indian Constitution has shown the way forward to legislators of different generations in facing new challenges.

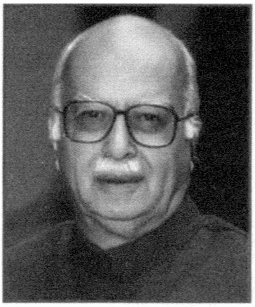
Today, as India grows ever faster, the singular theme for the progress of our country has to be inclusive growth that touches all sections of our nation. Our political system, our parliamentary practices and our national institutions are naturally suited to provide for such growth. It is my hope that we will continue to strive with this objective at the center of our efforts. In doing so, we will be paying a great tribute to those who not only fought for freedom but also laid down their lives in doing so.

My greetings to all on this joyous occasion.

Jai Hind.

(PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

New Delhi
3 August 2007



सत्यमेव जयते

नेता विपक्ष, लोक सभा
LEADER OF OPPOSITION,
LOK SABHA

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that a Commemorative Function is scheduled to be held in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 15 August 2007 as part of celebrations to observe the Diamond Jubilee year of India's Independence.

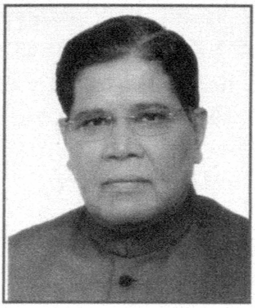
While we celebrate our hard earned freedom from colonial rule every year, this year, being the Diamond Jubilee year, assumes greater significance and needs to be celebrated by the nation in a befitting manner. The celebrations, normally, are so planned as to remember the sacrifices made by all those who made this freedom possible for all of us to enjoy. On this momentous occasion, it becomes our paramount duty to commit ourselves to make this 'freedom' really fruitful to each and every citizen of this country and just not to a privileged few.

I am sure the celebrations all over the country to mark the Diamond Jubilee year of India's Independence will be a great success. I send my good wishes to my fellow countrymen on the occasion.

L. K. Advani

(L. K. ADVANI)

New Delhi
31 July 2007



सत्यमेव जयते

उपसभापति, राज्य सभा
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN,
RAJYA SABHA

MESSAGE

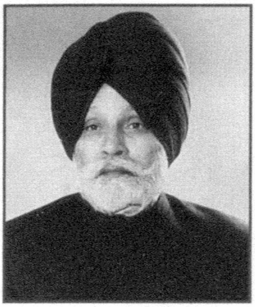
I extend my heartiest greetings to the people of India on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee of our Independence. On this historic occasion, I pay homage to our great freedom fighters, leaders and martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to liberate us from the clutches of foreign rule. I further salute the valiant soldiers of our defence forces who continue to guard our frontiers fearlessly against all odds.

A mass consciousness was awakened in the people by the magnetic personality and dynamic leadership of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, which culminated in the independence of our country. On the 15th of August 1947, when the Tricolor was unfurled for the first time, we took a giant leap forward as a new, independent and vibrant nation. It was an extraordinary moment, as the architect of modern India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, said, "when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance". And, after six decades of our independence, India as a nation is gaining prominence in the world. India has become a vibrant democracy of more than a billion people with a rich and diverse culture marching ahead in a technologically competitive world. Our countrymen are making an indelible mark in the fields of science, technology and space research while forging ahead in the field of business and the corporate world. India today symbolizes creativity, innovation and growth in diverse dimensions of life. We have been striving to achieve the goal of progress and prosperity of our people through freedom, rule of law and equity. We take pride in the fact that we have been sustaining and deepening democracy for over one sixth of all humanity.

The Diamond Jubilee of our Independence is an appropriate occasion for reviewing our accomplishments and future objectives. Undoubtedly in the times to come, India, as a nation, will play a significant role by achieving higher levels of excellence and growth in the regional as well as the global scenario, thereby contributing towards stability, peace and prosperity of the entire humanity.

(K. RAHMAN KHAN)

New Delhi
3 August 2007



सत्यमेव जयते

उपाध्यक्ष, लोक सभा
DEPUTY SPEAKER,
LOK SABHA

MESSAGE

It is indeed a happy occasion to join the whole nation in celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of our Independence on 15 August 2007. On this momentous occasion, we express our gratitude to the freedom fighters who were Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians and others who made valiant sacrifices to liberate the motherland from the colonial rule. India's long march to freedom is a moving saga of relentless struggle that galvanized millions of people into political action with revolutionary zeal. With the rich legacy of our freedom struggle, a meticulously drafted Constitution by our founding fathers and democratic traditions at the grassroots level, our polity has been functioning vibrantly and our nation is home to diverse peoples, cultures and languages, all co-existing in peace and harmony. As the largest democracy in the world, India occupies a pride of place among the comity of nations. We can claim in the right earnest that our nation has made big strides in the overall socio-economic development during the last sixty years. Today, India is emerging as an important global player in the field of information technology and telecommunications. With our enormous reservoir of knowledge base, our nation is also becoming one of the leading knowledge societies in the world. However, much remains to be done and we must continue to strive for excellence to make our country a fully developed nation.

On this auspicious occasion, let us rededicate ourselves and reaffirm our commitment to work for the progress and prosperity of our nation.

Charnjit Singh

(CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL)

New Delhi
2 August 2007

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

14-15 August 1947

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Thursday, the 14th August 1947

The Fifth Session of the Constituent Assembly of India commenced in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Eleven P.M. Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

SINGING OF *VANDE MATARAM*

Mr. President : The first item on the Agenda is the singing of the first verse of *VANDE MATARAM*. We will listen to it all standing.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (U.P. : General) sang the first verse of the VANDE MATARAM song.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mr. President:* In this solemn hour of our history when after many years of struggle we are taking over the governance of this country, let us offer our humble thanks to the Almighty Power that shapes the destinies of men and nations and let us recall in grateful remembrance the services and sacrifices of all those men and women, known and unknown, who with smiles on their face walked to the gallows or faced bullets on their chests, who experienced living death in the cells of the Andamans, or spent long years in the prisons of India, who preferred voluntary exile in foreign countries to a life of humiliation in their own, who not only lost wealth and property but cut themselves off from near and dear ones to devote themselves to the achievement of the great objective which we are witnessing today.

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*Mr. President then delivered his addresss in Hindustani.

Let us also pay our tribute of love and reverence to Mahatma Gandhi who has been our beacon light, our guide and philosopher during the last thirty years or more. He represents that undying spirit in our culture and make-up which has kept India alive through vicissitudes of our history. He it is who pulled us out of the slough of despondency and despair and blowed into us a spirit which enabled us to stand up for justice, to claim our birth-right of freedom and placed in our hands the matchless and unfailing weapon of Truth and Non-violence which without arms and armaments has won for us the invaluable prize of Swaraj at a price which, when the history of these times comes to be written, will be regarded as incredible for a vast country of our size and for the teeming millions of our population. We were indifferent instruments that he had to work with but he led us with consummate skill, with unwavering determination, with an undying faith in our future, with faith in his weapon and above all with faith in God. Let us prove true to that faith. Let us hope that India will not, in the hour of her triumph, give up or minimise the value of the weapon which served not only to rouse and inspire her in her moments of depression but has also proved its efficacy. India has a great part to play in the shaping and moulding of the future of a war-distracted world. She can play that part not by mimicking, from a distance, what others are doing, or by joining in the race for armaments and competing with others in the discovery of the latest and most effective instruments of destruction. She has now the opportunity, and let us hope, she will have the courage and strength to place before the world for its acceptance her infallible substitute for war and bloodshed, death and destruction. The world needs it and will welcome it, unless it is prepared to reel back into barbarism from which it boasts to have emerged.

Let us then assure all countries of the world that we propose to stick to our historic tradition to be on terms of friendship and amity with all, that we have no designs against any one and hope that none will have any against us. We have only one ambition and desire, that is, to make our contribution to the building up of freedom for all and peace among mankind.

The country, which was made by God and Nature to be one, stands divided today. Separation from near and dear ones, even from strangers after some association, is always painful. I would be untrue to myself if I did not at this moment confess to a sense of sorrow at this separation. But I wish to send on your behalf and my own our greetings and good wishes for success and the best of luck in the high endeavour of government in which the people of Pakistan, which till today has been a part and parcel of ourselves, will be engaged. To those who feel like us but are on the other side of the border we send a word of cheer. They should not give way to panic but should stick to their hearths and homes, their religion and culture, and cultivate the qualities of courage and forbearance. They have no reason to fear that they will not get protection and just and fair treatment and they should not become victims of doubt and suspicion. They must accept the assurances publicly given and win their rightful place in the polity of the State, where they are placed, by their loyalty.

To all the minorities in India we give the assurance that they will receive fair and just treatment and there will be no discrimination in any form against them. Their religion, their culture and their language are safe and they will enjoy all the rights and privileges of citizenship, and will be expected in their turn to render loyalty to the country in which they live and to its constitution. To all we give the assurance that it will be our endeavour to end poverty and squalor and its companions, hunger and disease, to abolish distinction and exploitation and to ensure decent conditions of living.

We are embarking on a great task. We hope that in this we shall have the unstinted service and co-operation of all our people and the sympathy and support of all the communities. We shall do our best to deserve it.

After this I propose that we all stand in silence to honour the memory of those who have died in the struggle for freedom in India and elsewhere.

(The Assembly stood in silence for two minutes.)

MOTION *RE*. PLEDGE BY MEMBERS

Mr. President : Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru will now move the motion which stands in his name.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (U.P.: General):* Mr. President, many years ago we had made a tryst with destiny itself. We had taken a pledge, a vow. Now the time has come to redeem it. But perhaps the pledge has not yet been redeemed fully though stages have been reached in that direction. We have almost attained independence. At such a moment it is only appropriate that we take a new pledge, a new vow to serve India and her people. After a few moments, the Assembly will assume the status of a fully free and independent body, and it will represent an independent and free country. Therefore great responsibilities are to devolve upon it. If we do not realise the importance of our responsibilities, then we shall not be able to discharge our duties fully. Hence it becomes essential for us to take this pledge after fully understanding all its implications. The resolution that I am presenting before you relates to that pledge. We have finished one phase, and for that rejoicings are going on today. Our hearts are full of joy and some pride and satisfaction. But we know that there is no rejoicing in the whole of the country. There is enough of grief in our hearts. Not far from Delhi, big cities are ablaze and its heat is reaching us here. Our happiness cannot be complete. At this hour we have to face all these things with a brave heart. We are not to raise a hue and cry and get perturbed. When the reins of Government have come to our hands, we have to do things in the right way. Generally, countries wrest their freedom after great bloodshed, tears and toil. Much blood has been spilt in our land, and in a way which is very painful. Notwithstanding that, we have achieved freedom by peaceful methods. We have set a new example before the world. We are free now but along with freedom, come responsibilities and burdens. We have to face them, and overcome them all. Our dream is now about to be translated into reality. The task of wresting freedom and ousting the foreign government was before us till now and that task is now accomplished. But uprooting the foreign domination is not all. Unless and until each and every Indian breathes the air of freedom and his miseries are banished and his hard lot is improved, our task remains unfinished. Therefore a large portion of our task remains to be done, and we shall try to accomplish it. Big problems confront us and at their sight sometimes our heart quivers, but, then again, the thought that in the past we have faced many a big problem and we shall do so again, gives us courage. Shall we be cowed down by these? It is not the individual pride and strength that is comforting, rather it is the pride of the country and the nation, and a confidence in people who have suffered terribly for the cause that makes me feel bold to think we shall successfully shoulder the huge burden of hardships, and find a solution of these problems. After all, India is now free. That is well and good. At a time when we are on the threshold of freedom, we should remember that India does not belong to any one party or group of people or caste. It does not belong to the followers of any particular religion. It is the country of all, of every religion and creed. We have repeatedly defined the type of freedom we desire. In the first resolution, which I moved earlier, it has been said that our freedom is to be shared equally by every Indian. All Indians shall have equal rights, and each one of them is to partake equally in that freedom. We shall proceed like that, and whosoever tries to be aggressive will be checked by us. If anyone is oppressed we shall stand by his side. If we follow this path then we shall be able to solve big problems, but if we become narrowminded we shall not be able to solve them.

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*English translation of Hindustani speech.

I shall read out in English this resolution which I am now putting before you.

Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom.

A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity.

At the dawn of history India started on her unending quest, and trackless centuries are filled with her striving and the grandeur of her successes and her failures. Through good and ill fortune alike she has never lost sight of that quest or forgotten the ideals which gave her strength. We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?

Freedom and power bring responsibility. That responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom we have endured all the pains of labour and our hearts are heavy with the memory of this sorrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now.

That future is not one of ease or resting but of incessant striving so that we might fulfil the pledges we have so often taken and the one we shall take today. The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us but as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over.

And so we have to labour and to work and work hard to give reality to our dreams. Those dreams are for India, but they are also for the world, for all the nations and peoples are too closely knit together today for any one of them to imagine that it can live apart. Peace has been said to be indivisible; so is freedom, so is prosperity now, and so also is disaster in this One World that can no longer be split into isolated fragments.

To the people of India, whose representatives we are, we make appeal to join us with faith and confidence in this great adventure. This is no time for petty and destructive criticism, no time for ill-will or blaming others. We have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell.

I beg to move, Sir,

"That it be resolved that :

(1) After the last stroke of midnight, all members of the Constituent Assembly present on this occasion, do take the following pledge :

> 'At this solemn moment when the people of India, through suffering and sacrifice, have secured freedom, I.........................., a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, do dedicate myself in all humility to the service of India and her people to the end that this ancient land attain her rightful place in the world and make her full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind;'

(2) Members who are not present on this occasion do take the pledge (with such verbal changes as the President may prescribe) at the time they next attend a session of the Assembly." (*Loud applause*)

Chaudhari Khaliquzzaman (United Provinces: Muslim): *[Mr. President, after midnight today a great revolution is to take place in the history of India; a revolution for which India had been working for the last one hundred years in her fight for freedom, an event for which many Indians have sacrificed their lives to achieve, is now approaching very near. Now that as a result of these sacrifices we have achieved this freedom, a new question confronts us, which is even more vital. That struggle is over but a fresh one of a different type is to begin; this new struggle is not to be fought against any outsider but is to be settled among our own selves. It is evident that when a nation had to fight against another nation we were swayed by different emotions, we had to adopt different tactics and different methods. Now the time has come when we shall have to shoulder great responsibilities when there will be no room for clapping and for high-sounding slogans. After today the task before this House, before the leaders of the country, will not be a spectacular one but one that requires diligence, industry and service to the people. We know that great responsibility rests on this Assembly and that is of framing a Constitution, which would be acceptable not only to the minorities but also to all the people of the country, to the poor and to the common man, and through which we may serve the people of India. This is the greatest task. Similarly, this House has to shoulder the responsibility of the administration of the country till such time as fresh elections are held. The administrative responsibility sometimes brings with it scoldings and one has to put up with abuses, etc. and is even subjected to brickbats. But all this has to be endured. A reading of the pledge, which is before us now, shows that it entails heavy responsibility. Ordinarily, I think that all the members, when they came here, had already taken the pledge of serving their country honestly and faithfully and as best as they could. But a pledge formally administered leaves some psychological effect on the mind of every person. Hence, I think that today, before we shoulder the responsibility, this is a most opportune moment for all of us to bind ourselves with this pledge that henceforth all our actions and deeds would primarily be directed towards the good of the State and no communal considerations would be allowed to prevail and we shall do our utmost to give everyone his due. After taking this pledge, when we step out of this Chamber, we shall give a message to the people of the country that we have taken a vow honestly to shoulder the responsibility, and in discharging our duties we shall show no favour to anyone.

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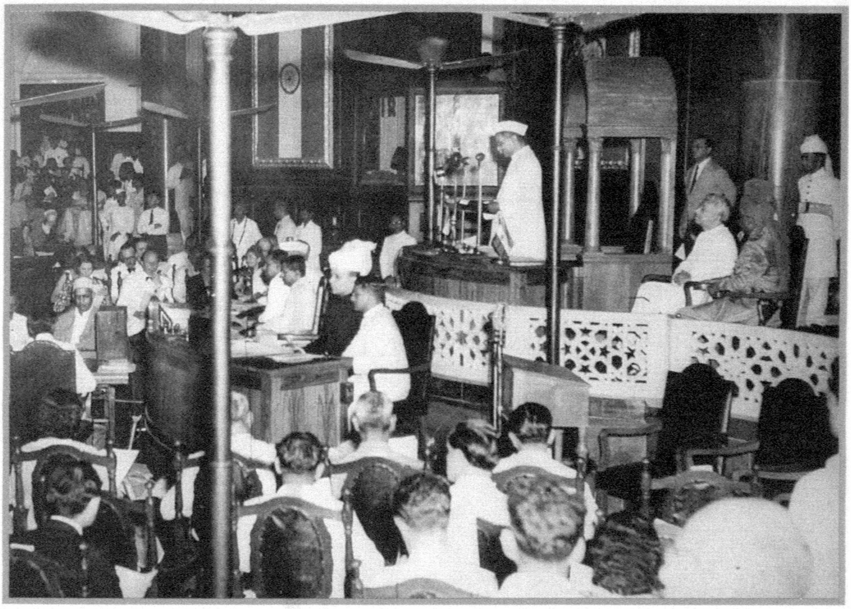
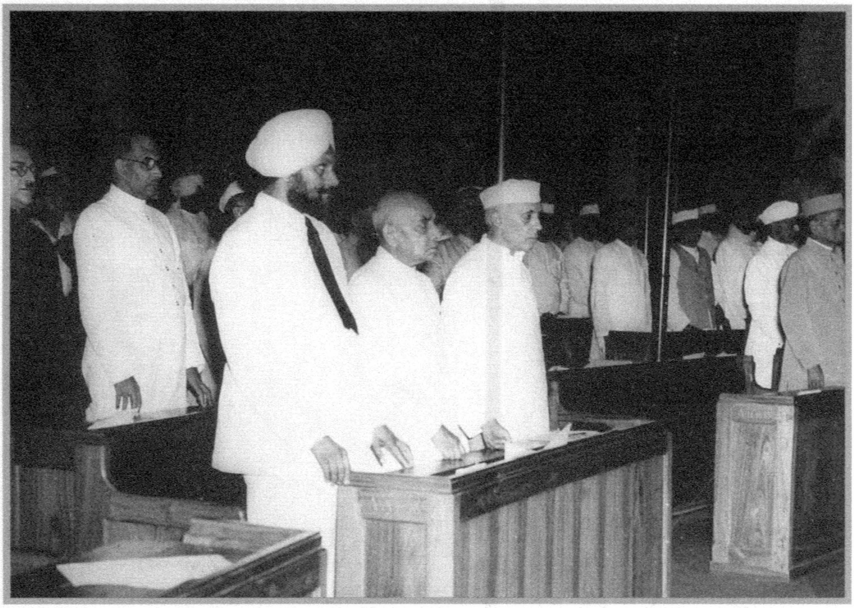
*English translation of Hindustani speech.

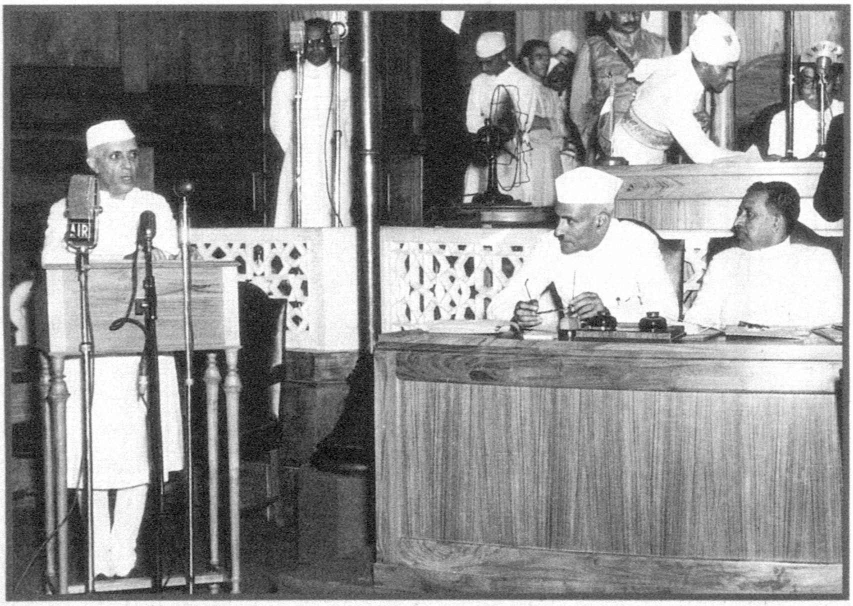


Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Constituent Assembly, addressing the Midnight Session, 14-15 August 1947

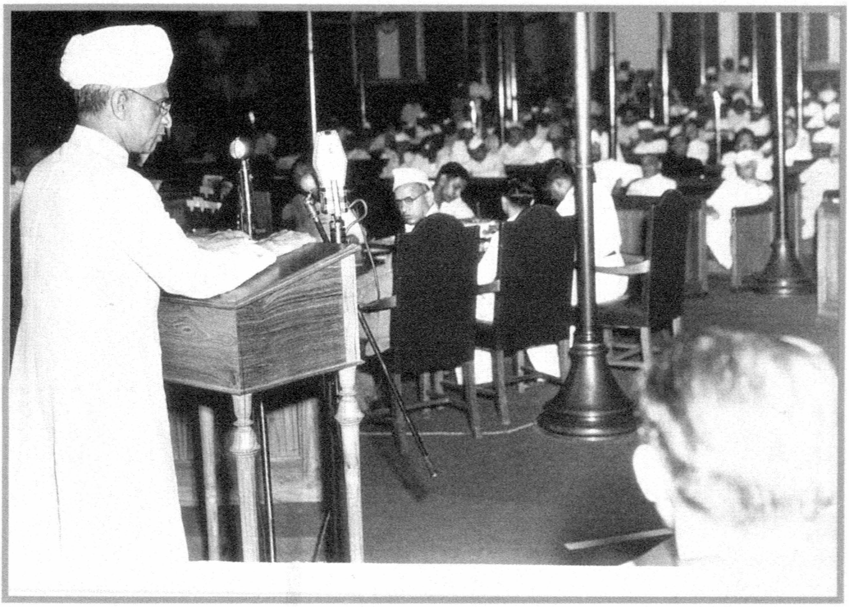
Singing of *Vande Mataram* at the Midnight Session



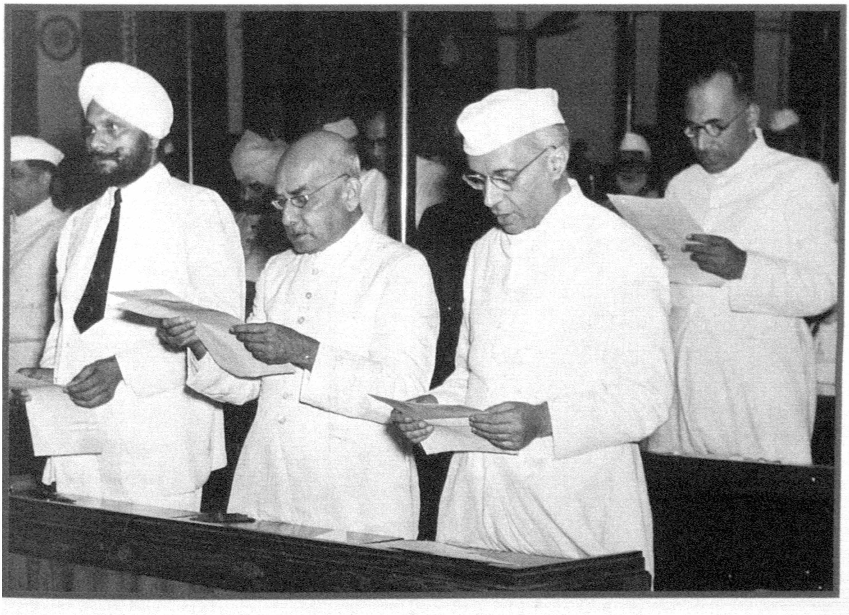
Observing silence in the memory of martyrs
at the Midnight Session



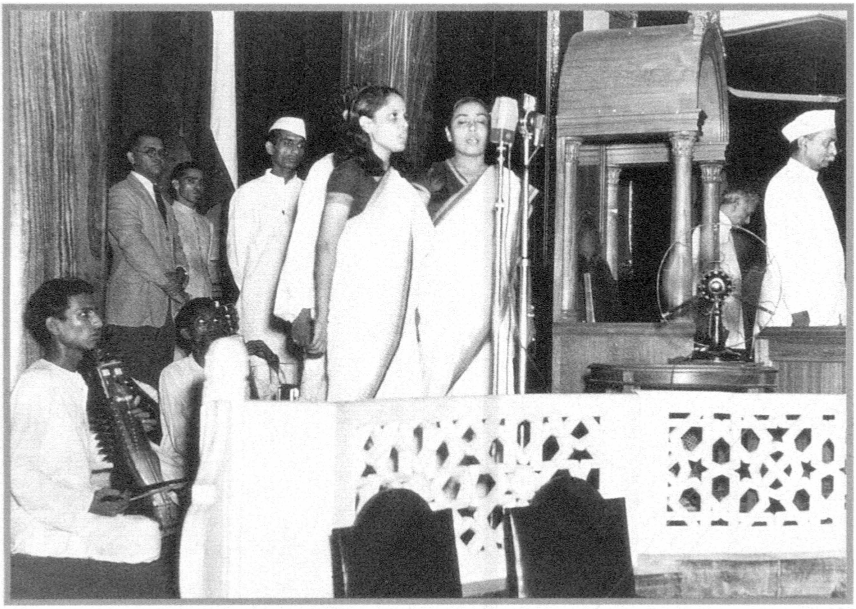
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the Midnight Session



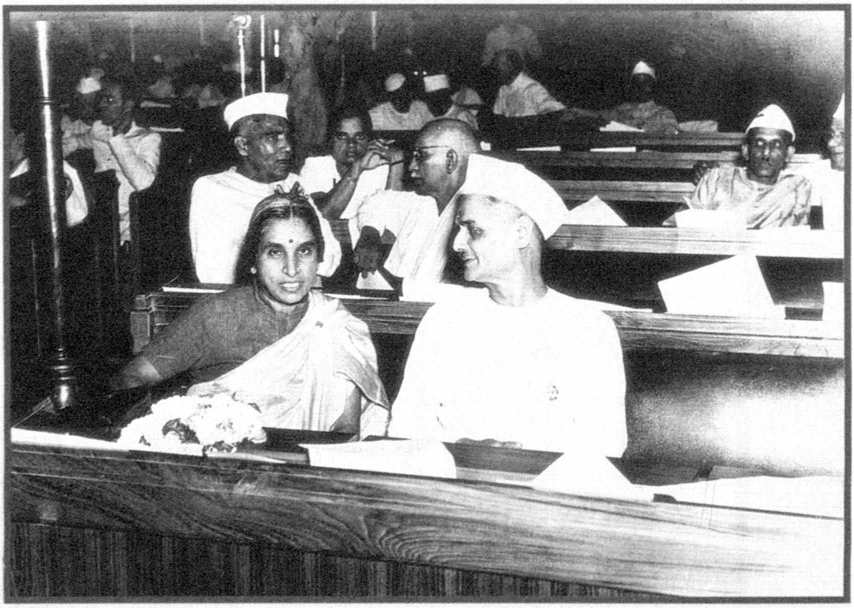
Address by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan at the Midnight Session



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and other members taking the 'Pledge' in the Constituent Assembly



Singing of the National Anthem at the Midnight Session



Smt. Ammu Swaminathan and Shri G.V. Mavalankar at the Constituent Assembly

A view of the distinguished gathering at the Midnight Session

Another view of the distinguished invitees

With these words, I support the pledge and the motion moved by Pandit Nehru. I think that everyone of the members present here will faithfully and honestly take this pledge that he would devote his life to the service of the State.]

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (United Provinces : General): Mr. President, Sir, it is not necessary for me to speak at any great length on this Resolution so impressively moved by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and seconded by Mr. Khaliquzzaman. History and legend will grow round this day. It marks a milestone in the march of our democracy. A significant date it is in the drama of the Indian people who are trying to rebuild and transform themselves. Through a long night of waiting, a night full of fateful portents and silent prayers for the dawn of freedom, of haunting spectres of hunger and death, our sentinels kept watch, the lights were burning bright till at last the dawn is breaking and we greet it with the utmost enthusiasm. When we are passing from a state of serfdom, a state of slavery and subjection to one of freedom and liberation, it is an occasion for rejoicing. That it is being effected in such an orderly and dignified way is a matter for gratification.

Mr. Attlee spoke with visible pride in the House of Commons when he said that this is the first great instance of a strong imperialist power transferring its authority to a subject people whom it ruled with force and firmness for nearly two centuries. For a parallel he cited the British withdrawal from South Africa; but it is nothing comparable in scale and circumstances to the British withdrawal from this country. When we see what the Dutch are doing in Indonesia, when we see how the French are clinging to their possessions, we cannot but admire the political sagacity and courage of the British people. (*Cheers*)

We on our side have also added a chapter to the history of the World. Look at the way in which subject peoples in history won their freedom. Let us also consider the methods by which power was acquired. How did men like Washington, Napoleon, Cromwell, Lenin, Hitler and Mussolini get into power? Look at the methods of blood and steel of terrorism and assassination, of bloodshed and anarchy by which these so called great men of the world came into the possession of power. Here in this land under the leadership of one who will go down in history as perhaps the greatest man of our age (*loud cheers*) we have opposed patience to fury, quietness of spirit to bureaucratic tyranny and are acquiring power through peaceful and civilised methods. What is the result? The transition is being effected with the least bitterness, with utterly no kind of hatred at all. The very fact that we are appointing Lord Mountbatten as the Governor-General of India, shows the spirit of understanding and friendliness in which this whole transition is being effected. (*Cheers*)

You, Mr. President, referred to the sadness in our hearts, to the sorrow which also clouds our rejoicings. May I say that we are in an essential sense responsible for it also though not entirely. From 1600, Englishmen have come to this country—priests and nuns, merchants and adventurers, diplomats and statesmen, missionaries and idealists. They bought and sold, marched and fought, plotted and profited, helped and healed. The greatest among them wished to modernise the country, to raise its intellectual and moral standards, its political status. They wished to regenerate the whole people. But the small among them worked with sinister objectives. They tried to increase the disunion in the country, made the country poorer, weaker and more disunited. They also have had their chance now. The freedom we are attaining is the fulfilment of this dual tendency among British administrators. While India is attaining freedom, she is attaining it in a manner which does not produce joy in the hearts of people or a radiant smile on their faces. Some of those who were charged with the responsibility for the administration of this country, tried to accentuate communal consciousness and bring about the present result which is a logical outcome of the policies adopted by the lesser minds of Britain. But I would never blame them. Were we not victims, ready victims, so to say, of the separatist tendencies foisted on us? Should we not now correct our national faults of character, our domestic despotism, our intolerance which has assumed the different forms of obscurantism, of narrow-mindedness, of superstitious bigotry? Others were able to play on our weakness because we had them. I would like therefore to take this opportunity to call for self-examination, for a searching of hearts. We have gained but we have not gained in the manner we wished to gain and if we have not done so, the responsibility is our own. And when this pledge says that we have to serve our country, we can best serve our country by removing these fundamental defects which have prevented us from gaining the objective of a free and united India. Now that India is divided, it is our duty not to indulge in words of anger. They lead us nowhere. We must avoid passion. Passion and wisdom never go together. The body politic may be divided but the body historic lives on. (*Hear, hear*) Political divisions, physical partitions, are external but the psychological divisions are deeper. The cultural cleavages are the more dangerous. We should not allow them to grow. What we should do is to preserve those cultural ties, those spiritual bonds which knit our peoples together into one organic whole. Patient consideration, slow process of education, adjustment to one another's needs, the discovery of points of view which are common to both the dominions in the matter of communications, defence, foreign affairs, these are the things which should be allowed to grow in the daily business of life and administration. It is by developing such attitudes that we can once again draw near and gain the lost unity of this country. That is the only way to it.

Our opportunities are great but let me warn you that when power outstrips ability, we will fall on evil days. We should develop competence and ability which would help us to utilise the opportunities which are now open to us. From tomorrow morning—from midnight today—we cannot throw the blame on the Britisher. We have to assume the responsibility ourselves for what we do. A free India will be judged by the way in which it will serve the interests of the common man in the matter of food, clothing, shelter and the social services. Unless we destroy corruption in high places, root out every trace of nepotism, love of power, profiteering and blackmarketing which have spoiled the good name of this great country in recent times, we will not be able to raise the standards of efficiency in administration as well as in the production and distribution of the necessary goods of life.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru referred to the great contribution which this country will make to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind. The *Chakra,* the Asokan wheel, which is there in the flag embodies for us a great idea. Asoka, the greatest of our emperors,—look at the words of H.G. Wells regarding him "Highnesses, Magnificences, Excellencies, Serenities, Majesties—among them all, he shines alone, a star—Asoka the greatest of all monarchs." He cut into rock his message for the healing of discords. If there are differences, the way in which you can solve them is by promoting concord. Concord is the only way by which we can get rid of differences. There is no other method which is open to us.

Samavaya eva Sadhuh

We are lucky in having for our leader one who is a world citizen, who is essentially a humanist, who possesses a buoyant optimism and robust good sense in spite of the perversity of things and the hostility of human affairs. We see the way in which his Department interfered actively and in a timely manner in the Indonesian dispute. (*Loud applause.*) It shows that if India gains freedom, that freedom will be used not merely for the well-being of India but for *Vishva Kalyana i.e.,* world peace, the welfare of mankind.

Our pledge tells us that this ancient land shall attain her rightful and honoured place. We take pride in the antiquity of this land for it is a land which has seen nearly four or five millenniums of history. It has passed through many vicissitudes and at the moment it stands, still responding to the thrill of the same great ideal. Civilisation is a thing of the spirit, it is not something external, solid and mechanical. It is the dream in the people's hearts. It is the inward aspiration of the people's souls. It is the imaginative interpretation of the human life and the perception of the mystery of human existence. That is what civilisation actually stands for. We should bear in mind these great ideals which have been transmitted to us across the ages. In this great time of our history we should bear ourselves humbly before God, brace ourselves to this supreme task which is confronting us and conduct ourselves in a manner that is worthy of the ageless spirit of India. If we do so, I have no doubt that the future of this land will be as great as its once glorious past.

Sarvabhut disahamatmanam
Sarvabhutani catmani
Sampasyam atmayajivai
Saarwjyam adhigachati

Swarajya is the development of that kind of tolerant attitude which sees in brother man the face Divine. Intolerance has been the greatest enemy of our progress. Tolerance of one another's views, thoughts and beliefs is the only remedy that we can possibly adopt. Therefore, I support with very great pleasure this Resolution which asks us as the representatives of the people of India to conduct ourselves in all humility in the service of our country and the world. 'Humility' here means that we are by ourselves very insignificant. Our efforts by themselves cannot carry us to a long distance. We should make ourselves dependent on that other than ourselves which makes for righteousness. The note of humility means the unimportance of the individual and the supreme importance of the unfolding purpose which we are called upon to serve. So in a mood of humility, in a spirit of dedication, let us take this pledge as soon as the clock strikes 12.

Mr. President : I will now put the Resolution to the vote. I shall read it first :–

"Resolved that–

(1) After the last stroke of midnight, all members of the Constituent Assembly present on the occasion do take the following pledge :–

'At this solemn moment when the people of India, through suffering and sacrifice, have secured freedom I,.................., a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, do dedicate myself in all humility to the service of India and her people to the end that this ancient land attain her rightful and honoured place in the world and make her full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind;

(2) Members who are not present on this occasion do take the pledge (with such verbal changes as the President may prescribe) at the time they next attend a session of the Assembly'."

Shri H.V. Kamath (C.P. & Berar : General) : Mr. President, there are two amendments standing in my name, but since you have invoked the holy name of God in your address and incorporated the spirit of it in the pledge by modifying it slightly in the form in which it has come before us, and above all, since the zero hour is fast approaching, I do not propose to move my amendments.

Mr. President : Thank you. I will put the Resolution to vote. Members will please express their assent by saying 'Aye'.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : We have just resolved that as the clock strikes 12, we shall take the pledge. In taking the pledge, I shall read it out sentence by sentence in our own language first and I shall expect those members who know that language to repeat it sentence by sentence. Then I will read it out also sentence by sentence in English and I shall expect the members to repeat it sentence by sentence. Members will please stand when the pledge is taken, but other visitors will remain seated. It is just half a minute to 12. I am expecting the clock to strike 12.

As the clock struck twelve (mid-night), Mr. President and all the Members stood up and took the pledge as below. Mr. President reading it out sentence by sentence and the Members repeating it after him in Hindustani and in English.

"At this solemn moment when the people of India, through suffering and sacrifice, have secured freedom, I, ..., a

member of the Constituent Assembly of India, do dedicate myself in all humility to the service of India and her people to the end that this ancient land attain her rightful and honoured place in the world and make her full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind."

INTIMATION TO THE VICEROY ABOUT THE ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND THE ASSEMBLY'S ENDORSEMENT OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN'S APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA

Mr. President : I propose that it should be intimated to the Viceroy that—

(1) the Constituent Assembly of India has assumed power for the governance of India, and

(2) the Constituent Assembly of India has endorsed the recommendation that Lord Mountbatten be Governor-General of India from the 15th August 1947

and that this message be conveyed forthwith to Lord Mountbatten by the President and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. (*Cheers*) I take it the House approves it.

The motion was adopted.

PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

Mr. President : Shrimati Hansa Mehta will now present the National Flag on behalf of the women of India. (*Cheers*)

Mrs. Hansa Mehta (Bombay : General) : Mr. President, Sir, in the absence of Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, it is my proud privilege, on behalf of the women of India, to present this flag to the Nation through you.

I have a list here of nearly a hundred prominent women of all communities who have expressed a desire to associate themselves with this ceremonial. There are hundreds and hundreds of other women who would equally like to participate in this function. It is in the fitness of things that this first flag that will fly over this august House should be a gift from the women of India. (*Cheers*) We have donned the saffron colour, we have fought, suffered and sacrificed in the cause of our country's freedom. We have today attained our goal. In presenting this symbol of our freedom, we once more offer our services to the nation. We pledge ourselves to work for a great India, for building up a nation that will be a nation among nations. We pledge ourselves for working for a greater cause, to maintain the freedom that we have attained. We have great traditions to maintain, traditions that made India so great in the past. It is the duty of every man and woman to preserve these traditions so that India may hold her spiritual supremacy over the world. May this flag be the symbol of that great India and may it ever fly high and serve as a light in the gloom that threatens the world today. May it bring happiness to those who live under its protecting care. (*Cheers*).

MEMBERS OF THE FLAG PRESENTATION COMMITTEE

1. Sarojini Naidu
2. Amrit Kaur
3. Vijayalakshmi Pandit
4. Hansa Mehta
5. Ammu Swaminathan
6. Sucheta Kripalani
7. Kudsia Aizaz Rasool
8. Durga Bai
9. Renuka Ray
10. Dakshayini Velayudan
11. Purnima Banerji
12. Kamala Chaudhri
13. Malati Chaudhary
14. Abala Bose
15. Lakshmi Bai Rajwade
16. Maitreyi Bose
17. Rameshwari Nehru
18. Sherifa Hamid Ali
19. Goshi Ben Captain
20. Dhanavanti Rama Rao
21. Anasuya Bai Kale
22. Premleela Thakersy
23. Mani Ben Patel
24. Sarla Devi Sarabhai
25. Avantikabai Gokhaley
26. Sakine Lukmani

27. Jankiben Bajaj
28. Muthulakshmi Reddi
29. Charulata Mukerji
30. Rukmani Lakshmani Lakshmipathi
31. Mithan Tata Lam
32. Hannah Sen
33. Aswah Hussain
34. Radhabai Subbroyan
35. Tarabhai Premchand
36. Jethi Sipahimlani
37. Ambuja Amma
38. Janaki Amma
39. Leelavathi Munshi
40. Lavanya Prabha Dutt
41. Sophia Wadia
42. Mrinalini Chattopadhyay
43. Sarada Ben Mehta
44. Zarina Currimbhoy
45. Prem Captain
46. Hemaprabha Das Gupta
47. Premavati Thappar
48. Zora Ansari
49. Jaishri Raiji
50. Kitty Shiva Rao
51. Shanoodevi
52. Violet Alva
53. Susheela Ilukusing
54. Bina Das
55. Uma Nehru
56. Iravati Karve
57. Raiban Tyabji
58. Asha Aryanayakam
59. Mridula Sarabhai
60. Raksha Saran
61. Margaret Cousins
62. Kamaladevi
63. Lakshmi Menon
64. Lavanya Chanda
65. Ayasha Ahmed
66. Krishna Hutheesingh
67. Rajan Nehru
68. Indira Gandhi
69. Suraya Tyabji
70. Memubai
71. Padmaja Naidu
72. Kiran Bose
73. Kusum Sayani
74. Lajjavati Devi

Mr. President : I have, in anticipation of the consent of the House, accepted with thanks a poem composed by His Excellency Dr. Chia Luen Lo, the Chinese Ambassador in India, on this occasion.

SINGING OF NATIONAL SONGS

Mr. President : The next item is the singing of the first few lines of *Sare Jahan se Achchha Hindustan Hamara* and the first verse of *Jana Gana Mana Adhinayaka Jaya He.*

(Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani sang the first few lines of Sare Jahan Se Achchha Hindustan Hamara and the first verse of Jana Gana Mana Adhinayaka Jaya He.)

Mr. President : The House will now adjourn for a few hours, till Ten of the Clock.

The Assembly then adjourned till Ten of the Clock
on Friday, the 15th August, 1947.

Lord Mountbatten administers the oath of office of the Prime Minister to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at a ceremony at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, 15 August 1947

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Friday, the 15th August 1947

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock. Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) entered the Hall along with their Excellencies Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, and Lady Mountbatten.

MESSAGES

Mr. President : I shall read out certain messages which have been received.

1. **Message from the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**

   My colleagues in the United Kingdom Government join with me in sending on this historic day greetings and good wishes to the Government and the people of India. It is our earnest wish that India may go forward in tranquility and prosperity and in so doing contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world.

2. **Message from His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury**

   At this time when India and Pakistan become independent Dominions and take upon themselves the full responsibilities of Self-Government, on behalf of the Christian people of this country, I send you my greetings and good wishes. In God's providence apparently insuperable difficulties have so far been overcome and all the travail of past ages has led up to this moment of fulfilment and hope. I pray that the two Dominions may go forward to a noble future ever growing in justice and peace, in brotherhood and prosperity.

3. **Message from Generalisimo Chiang Kaishek, President of the Reupublic of China**

   On this auspicious occasion when the people of India celebrate the Dawn of a new era of freedom, I wish to convey to you and the people of India my warm congratulations on the glorious and monumental achievement in which you and Mahatma Gandhi have played such an eminent and noble part, and which, I am confident, will be a source of inspiration to all peoples striving for independence, equality and progress. Please accept my best wishes for India's bright and promising future of success and greatness.

4. **Message from the Prime Minister of Canada**

   It affords me much pleasure to extend to you, and through you to the Government and people of India, the most cordial wishes of the Government and people of Canada on the occasion of the establishment of India as a completely self-governing nation.

5. **Message from the Prime Minister of Australia**

   I desire to convey the greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of Australia to the Government and people of India on the historic occasion which is being celebrated on the 15th August.

   The Australian people rejoice in your new status as a free and sovereign nation and warmly welcome your fellow membership in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

   It is confidently anticipated that your traditions, your ancient culture and the spirit which is animating you in making smooth this period of transition, will ensure the future welfare and greatness of the people of India.

6. **Message from the President of the Executive Yuan, Nanking**

   On this historic occasion of India's attainment of her long cherished aspirations, I take especial pleasure in extending to you and the Indian people my sincere felicitations. The Chinese people are deeply gratified by the rebirth of another great nation on the Asian continent. India and China with a common frontier of 2,000 miles have enjoyed the closest and most friendly relations in the course of many centuries. Our two nations having stood together through the late World War will undoubtedly continue to march forward together toward the common goal of world peace. I send you my warmest wishes for your continued success and for the happiness and prosperity of the Indian people.

7. Message from Dr. Soedarsono on behalf of the Republic of Indonesia

On the eve of the establishment of the Dominion of India it is a great pleasure to the Republic of Indonesia to express her feelings of heartfelt joy, sympathy and friendship.

The Republic of Indonesia looks upon India as her Comrade who in time of danger and distress has helped her and will always help her. She may—as both their nationalism is based upon humanity—hope that in the very near future still tighter bonds will be welded, bonds of comradeship in the struggle for Justice and Peace and for the Freedom and Prosperity of millions who for so long a time have lived in squalor amidst luxury and wealth.

The people of India since years led by its eminent leaders undoubtedly is approaching a better and happier future. India will not only become a land of Justice and Prosperity but at the same time a bulwark of and a guard for peace in Asia.

The Government and the People of the Republic of Indonesia send your People, your Government and your Excellency at this great historical moment their deeply felt wishes for Happiness and Prosperity.

8. **Message from His Majesty's Minister in Nepal**

   My staff join me in offering warmest congratulations on establishment of Dominion of India and send all good wishes for future happiness and prosperity of State and its people.

9. **Message from the Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Oslo**

   On this Great Day of National Rejoicing for the Peoples of India I have the honour to transmit to you my very best wishes for the prosperity of your country.

ADDRESS OF H.E. THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. President : May I invite Your Excellency to address the House?

H.E. the Governor-General : Mr. President and members of the Constituent Assembly,

I have a message from His Majesty the King to deliver to you today. This is His Majesty's message:—

> "On this historic day when India takes her place as a free and Independent Dominion in the British Commonwealth of Nations, I send you all my greetings and heartfelt wishes.
>
> Freedom loving people everywhere will wish to share in your celebrations, for with this transfer of power by consent comes the fulfilment of a great democratic ideal to which the British and Indian peoples alike are firmly dedicated. It is inspiring to think that all this has been achieved by means of peaceful change.
>
> Heavy responsibilities lie ahead of you, but when I consider the statesmanship you have already shown and the great sacrifices you have already made, I am confident that you will be worthy of your destiny.
>
> I pray that the blessings of the Almighty may rest upon you and that your leaders may continue to be guided with wisdom

in the tasks before them. May the blessings of friendship, tolerance and peace inspire you in your relations with the nations of the world. Be assured always of my sympathy in all your efforts to promote the prosperity of your people and the general welfare of mankind."

It is barely six months ago that Mr. Attlee invited me to accept the appointment of last Viceroy. He made it clear that this would be no easy task—since His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom had decided to transfer power to Indian hands by June 1948. At that time it seemed to many that His Majesty's Government had set a date far too early. How could this tremendous operation be completed in 15 months?

However, I had not been more than a week in India before I realised that this date of June 1948 for the transfer of power was too late rather than too early; communal tension and rioting had assumed proportions of which I had had no conception when I left England. It seemed to me that a decision had to be taken at the earliest possible moment unless there was to be risk of a general conflagration throughout the whole sub-continent.

I entered into discussions with the leaders of all the parties at once—and the result was the plan of June 3rd. Its acceptance has been hailed as an example of fine statesmanship throughout the world. The plan was evolved at every stage by a process of open diplomacy with the leaders. Its success is chiefly attributable to them.

I believe that this system of open diplomacy was the only one suited to the situation in which the problems were so complex and the tension so high. I would here pay tribute to the wisdom, tolerance and friendly help of the leaders which have enabled the transfer of power to take place ten and a half months earlier than originally intended.

At the very meeting at which the plan of June 3rd was accepted, the Leaders agreed to discuss a paper which I had laid before them on the administrative consequences of partition; and then and there we set up the machinery which was to carry out one of the greatest administrative operations in history—the partition of a sub-continent of 400 million inhabitants and the transfer of power to two independent governments in less than two and a half months. My reason for hastening these processes was that, once the principle of division had been accepted, it was in the interest of all parties that it should be carried out with the utmost speed. We set a pace faster in fact than many at the time thought possible. To the Ministers and officials who have laboured day and night to produce this astonishing result, the greatest credit is due.

I know well that the rejoicing which the advent of freedom brings is tempered in your hearts by the sadness that it could not come to a united India; and that the pain of division has shorn today's events of some of its joy. In supporting your leaders in the difficult decision which they had to take, you have displayed as much magnanimity and realism as have those patriotic statesmen themselves.

These statesmen have placed me in their debt for ever by their sympathetic understanding of my position. They did not, for example, press their original request that I should be the Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal. Again they agreed from the outset to release me from any responsibility whatsoever for the partition of the Punjab and Bengal. It was they who selected the personnel of the Boundary Commissions, including the Chairman; it was they who drew up the terms of reference, it is they who shoulder the responsibility for implementing the award. You will appreciate that had they not done this, I would have been placed in an impossible position.

Let me now pass to the Indian States. The plan of June 3rd dealt almost exclusively with the problem of the transfer of power in British India; and the only reference to the States was a paragraph which recognised that on the transfer of power, all the Indian States—565 of them—would become independent. Here then was another gigantic problem and there was apprehension on all sides. But after the formation of the States Department it was possible for me, as Crown Representative to tackle this great question. Thanks to that farsighted statesman, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Member in charge of States Department, a scheme was produced which appeared to me to be equally in the interests of the States as of the Dominion of India. The overwhelming majority of States are geographically linked with India, and therefore this Dominion had by far the bigger stake in the solution of this problem. It is a great triumph for the realism and sense of responsibility of the Rulers and the Governments of the States, as well as for the Government of India, that it was possible to produce an Instrument of Accession which was equally acceptable to both sides; and one, moreover, so simple and so straightforward that within less than three weeks practically all the States concerned had signed the Instrument of Accession and the Standstill Agreement. There is thus established a unified political structure covering over 300 million people and the major part of this great sub-continent.

The only State of the first importance that has not yet acceded is the premier State, Hyderabad.

Hyderabad occupies a unique position in view of its size, population and resources, and it has its special problems. The Nizam, while he does not propose to accede to the Dominion of Pakistan, has not up to the present felt able to accede to the Dominion of India. His Exalted Highness has, however, assured me of his wish to co-operate in the three essential subjects of External Affairs, Defence and Communications with that Dominion whose territories surround his State. With the assent of the Government, negotiations will be continued with the Nizam and I am hopeful that we shall reach a solution satisfactory to all.

From today I am your constitutional Governor-General and I would ask you to regard me as one of yourselves, devoted wholly to the furtherance of India's interests. I am honoured that you have endorsed the invitation originally made to me by your leaders to remain as your Governor-General. The only consideration I had in mind in accepting was that I might continue to be of some help to you in difficult days which lie immediately ahead. When discussing the Draft of the India Independence Act your leaders selected the 31st March, 1948 as the end of what may be called the interim period. I propose to ask to be released in April. It is not that I fail to appreciate the honour of being invited to stay on in your service, but I feel that as soon as possible India should be at liberty, if you so wish, to have one of her own people as her Governor-General. Until then my wife and I will consider it a privilege to continue to work with and amongst you. No words can express our gratitude for the understanding and co-operation as well as the true sympathy and generosity of spirit which have been shown to us at all times.

I am glad to announce that "my" Government (as I am now constitutionally entitled and most proud to call them) have decided to mark this historic occasion by a generous programme of amnesty. The categories are as wide as could be consistent with the over-riding consideration of public morality and safety, and special account has been taken of political motives. This policy will also govern the release of military prisoners undergoing sentences as a result of trial by courtsmartial.

The tasks before you are heavy. The War ended two years ago. In fact, it was on this very day two years ago that I was with that great friend of India, Mr. Attlee in his Cabinet Room when the news came through that Japan had surrendered. That was a moment for thankfulness and rejoicing, for it marked the end of six bitter years of destruction and slaughter. But in India we have achieved something greater—what has been well described as "A treaty of Peace without a War". Nevertheless, the ravages of the War are still apparent all over the world. India, which played such a valiant part, as I can personally testify from my experience in South-East Asia, has also had to pay her price in the dislocation of her economy and the casualties to her gallant fighting men with whom I was so proud to be associated. Pre-occupations with the political problem retarded recovery. It is for you to ensure the happiness and ever-increasing prosperity of the people, to provide against future scarcities of food, cloth and essential commodities and to build up a balanced economy. The solution of these problems requires immediate and whole-hearted effort and far-sighted planning, but I feel confident that with your resources in men, material and leadership, you will prove equal to the task.

What is happening in India is of far more than purely national interest. The emergence of a stable and prosperous State will be a factor of the greatest international importance for the peace of the world. Its social and economic development, as well as its strategic situation and its wealth of resources, invest with great significance the events that take place here. It is for this reason that not only Great Britain and the sister Dominions but all the great nations of the world will watch with sympathetic expectancy the fortunes of this country and will wish to it all prosperity and success.

At this historic moment, let us not forget all that India owes to Mahatma Gandhi—the architect of her freedom through non-violence. We miss his presence here today, and would have him know how much he is in our thoughts.

Mr. President, I would like you and our other colleagues of the late Interim Government to know how deeply I have appreciated your unfailing support and co-operation.

In your first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, you have a world-renowned leader of courage and vision. (*Cheers*). His trust and friendship have helped me beyond measure in my task. Under his able guidance, assisted by the colleagues whom he has selected, and with the loyal co-operation of the people, India will now attain a position of strength and influence and take her rightful place in the comity of nations. (*Loud and prolonged cheers.*)

Mr. President: *[Your Excellency and members of the Assembly. I request you to communicate to His Majesty the gratitude of this Assembly for the message he has very kindly sent to us today. With the knowledge that we will have his sympathy and kindness in the task that we are going to take in our hands today, we are confident that we will be able to accomplish it in a proper way.]

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*English translation of Hindustani speech.

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

Mr. President*: I have to announce that a message of greetings and goodwill has also been received from the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of France and on his own behalf. It is regretted that I do not have the text of the message with me, but it will be inscribed in the records of the Assembly along with the other messages which I have read today.

Your Excellency, may I request you to convey to His Majesty a message of loyal greetings from this House and of thanks for the gracious message which he has been good enough to send us? That message will serve as an inspiration in the great work on which we launch today and I have no doubt that we anticipate with great pleasure association with Great Britain of a different kind. I hope and trust that the interest and the sympathy and the kindness which have always inspired His Majesty will continue in favour of India and we shall be worthy of them.

10. Message from the French Minister of Foreign Affairs

From: Mons. Georges Bidault,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Paris.

To Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,

In the name of my Government and in my own I salute the historic date which marks the final accession of India to the ranks of the World's great free nations devoted to the cause of peace and earnestly desirous of the prosperity of all the peoples of the world, I request Your Excellency to accept, on this occasion, the renewed assurances of my very high consideration and of my entire devotion to the cause of friendship between our two countries.

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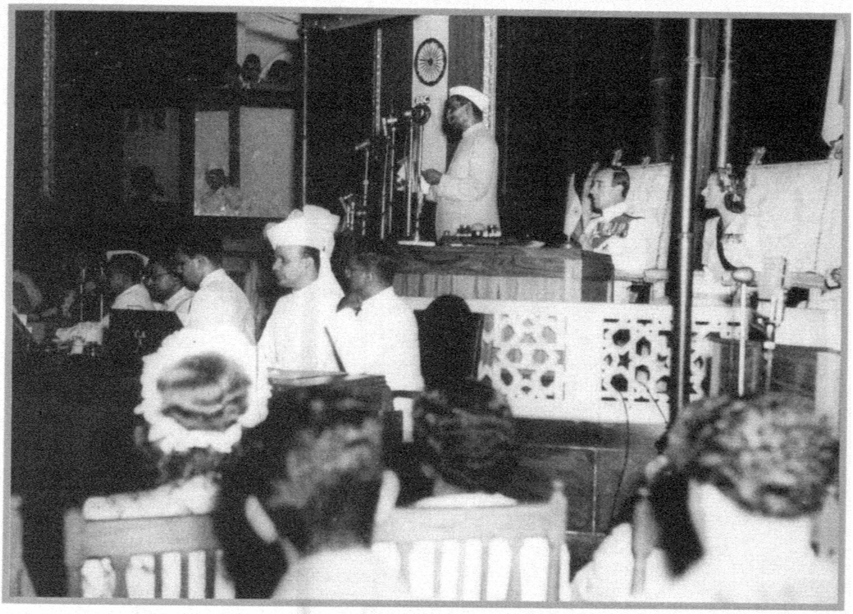
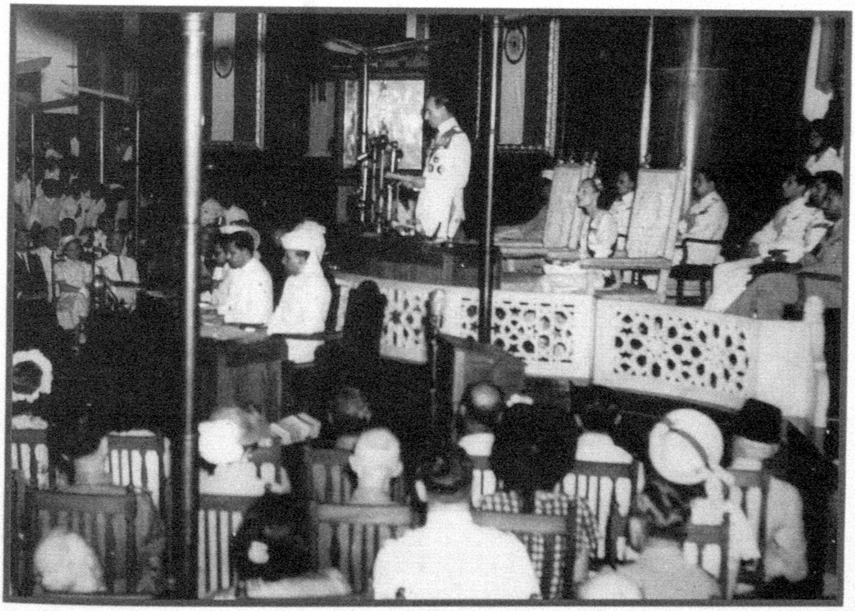
*English translation of Hindustani speech.

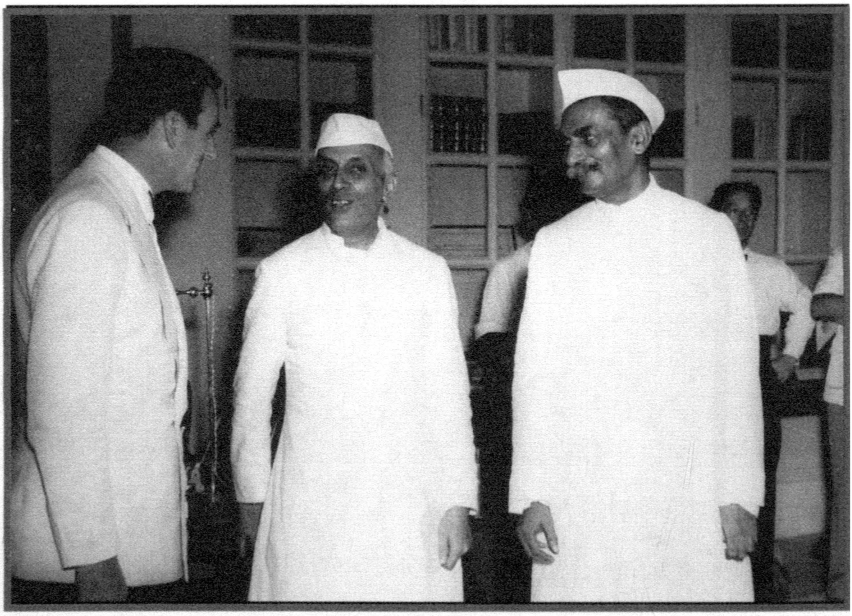


Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Constituent Assembly, addressing the Assembly, 15 August 1947

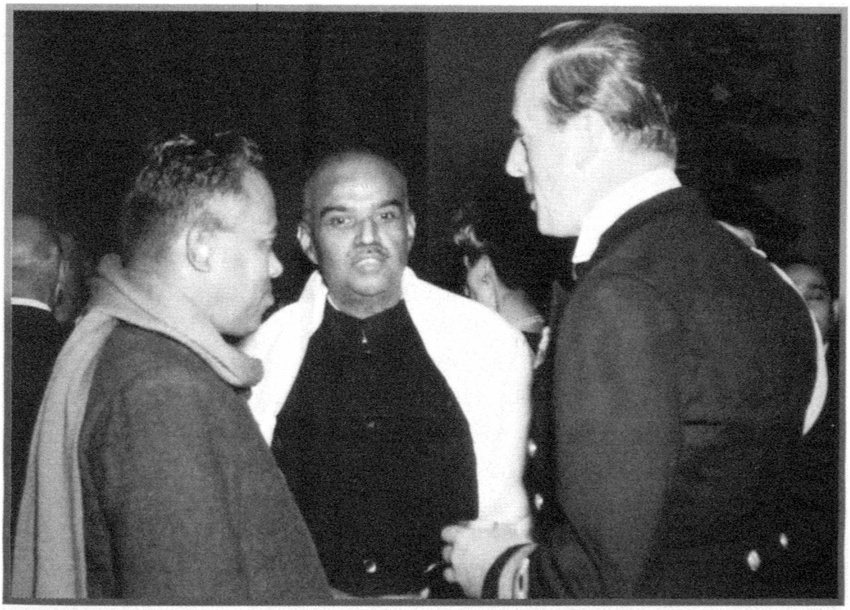


Address by the Governor-General of India, Lord Mountbatten, to the Constituent Assembly, 15 August 1947

Another view of Lord Mountbatten addressing the Constituent Assembly



Lord Mountbatten with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad, New Delhi, 15 August 1947



Lord Mountbatten in conversation with
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and others

11. Message from the President of the United States of America

American Embassy,
New Delhi, India
August 15, 1947

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit to you the following message from the President of the United States:

On this memorable occasion, I extend to you, to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and to the people of the Dominion of India the sincere best wishes of the Government and the people of the United States of America. We welcome India's new and enhanced status in the world community of sovereign Independent nations, assure the new Dominion of our continued friendship and goodwill, and reaffirm our confidence that India, dedicated to the cause of peace and to the advancement of all peoples, will take its place at the forefront of the nations of the world in the struggle to fashion a world society founded in mutual trust and respect. India faces many grave problems, but its resources are vast, and I am confident that its people and leadership are equal to the tasks ahead. In the years to come the people of this great new nation will find the United States a constant friend. I earnestly hope that our friendship will in the future, as in the past, continue to be expressed in close and fruitful cooperation in international undertakings and in cordiality in our relations, one with the other.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity of extending my personal congratulations to Your Excellency on your assumption of the post of Governor-General of the Dominion of India and at the same time to convey assurance of my highest considerations.

HENRY T. GRADY.

His Excellency,
Governor-General of the Dominion of India.

Mr. President: Let us in this momentous hour of our history, when we are assuming power for the governance of our country, recall in grateful remembrance the services and sacrifices of all those who laboured and suffered for the achievement of the Independence we are attaining today. Let us on this historic occasion pay our homage to the maker of our modern history, Mahatma Gandhi, who has inspired and guided us through all these years of trial and travail and who in spite of the weight of years is still working in his own way to complete what is left yet unaccomplished.

Let us gratefully acknowledge that while our achievement is in no small measure due to our own sufferings and sacrifices, it is also the result of world forces and events and last though not least it is the consummation and fulfilment of the historic traditions and democratic ideals of the British race whose farsighted leaders and statesmen saw the vision and gave the pledges which are being redeemed today. We are happy to have in our midst as a representative of that race, Viscount Mountbatten of Burma and his consort who have worked hard and played such an important part in bringing this about during the closing scenes of this drama. The period of domination by Britain over India ends today and our relationship with Britain is henceforward going to rest on a basis of equality, of mutual goodwill and mutual profit.

It is undoubtedly a day of rejoicing. But there is only one thought which mars and detracts from the fullness of this happy event. India, which was made by God and Nature to be one, which culture and tradition and history of millenniums have made one, is divided today and many there are on the other side of the boundary who would much rather be on this side. To them we send a word of cheer and assurance and ask them not to give way to panic or despair but to live with faith and courage in peace with their neighbours and fulfil the duties of loyal citizenship and thus win their rightful place. We send our greetings to the new Dominion which is being established today there and wish it the best luck in its great work of governing that region and making all its citizens happy and prosperous. We feel assured that they all will be treated fairly and justly, without any distinction or discrimination. Let us hope and pray that the day will come when even those who have insisted upon and brought about this division will realise India's essential oneness and we shall be united once again. We must realise however that this can be brought about not by force but by large heartedness and co-operation and by so managing our affairs on this side as to attract those who have parted. It may appear to be a dream but it is no more fantastic a dream than that of those who wanted a division and may well be realised even sooner than we dare hope for today.

More than a day of rejoicing it is a day of dedication for all of us to build the India of our dreams. Let us turn our eyes away from the past and fix our gaze on the future. We have no quarrel with other nations and countries and let us hope no one will pick a quarrel with us. By history and tradition we are a peaceful people and India wants to be at peace with the world. India's Empire outside her own borders has been of a different kind from all other Empires. India's conquests have been the conquests of spirit which did not impose heavy chains of slavery, whether of iron or of gold, on others but tied other lands and other peoples to her with the more enduring ties of golden silk-of culture and civilisation, of religion and knowledge (*gyan*). We shall follow that same tradition and shall have no ambition save that of contributing our little mite to the building of peace and freedom in a war-distracted world by holding aloft the banner under which we have marched to victory and placing in a practical manner in the hands of the world the great weapon of non-violence which has achieved this unique result. India has a great part to play. There is something in her life and culture which has enabled her to survive the onslaughts of time and today we witness a new birth full of promise, if only we prove ourselves true to our ideals.

Let us resolve to create conditions in this country when every individual will be free and provided with the wherewithal to develop and rise to his fullest stature, when poverty and squalor and ignorance and ill-health will have vanished, when the distinction between high and low, between rich and poor, will have disappeared, when religion will not only be professed and preached and practised freely but will have become a cementing force for binding man to man and not serve as a disturbing and disrupting force dividing and separating, when untouchability will have been forgotten like an unpleasant night dream, when exploitation of man by man will have ceased, when facilities and special arrangements will have been provided for the *adimjatis* of India and for all others who are backward, to enable them to catch up to others and when this land will have not only enough food to feed its teeming millions but will once again have become a land flowing with rivers of milk, when men and women will be laughing and working for all they are worth in fields and factories, when every cottage and hamlet will be humming with the sweet music of village handicafts and maids will be busy with them and singing to their tune—when the sun and the moon will be shining on happy homes and loving faces.

To bring all this about we need all the idealism and sacrifice, all the intelligence and diligence, all the determination and the power of organisation that we can muster. We have many parties and groups with differing ideals and ideologies. They are all trying to convert the country to their own ideologies and to mould the Constitution and the administration to suit their own view point. While they have the right to do so, the country and the nation have the right to demand loyalty from them. All must realise that what is needed most today is a great constructive effort—not strife, hard solid work—not argumentation, and let us hope that all will be prepared to make their contribution. We want the peasants to grow more food, we want the workers to produce more goods, we want our industrialists to use their intelligence, tact and resourcefulness for the common good. To all we must assure conditions of decent and healthy life and opportunities for self-improvement and self-realisation.

Not only have the people to dedicate themselves to this great task that lies ahead but those who have so far been playing the role of rulers and regulators of the lives of our men and women have to assume the role of servants. Our army has won undying glory in distant lands for its bravery and great fighting qualities. Our soldiers, sailors and airmen have to realise that they now form a national army on whom devolves the duty not only of defending the freedom which we have won but also to help in a constructive way in building up a new life. There is no place in the armed forces of our country which is not open to our people, and what is more they are required to take the highest places as soon as they can so that they may take full charge of our defences. Our public servants in various departments of Government have to shed their role as rulers and have to become true servants of the people that their compeers are in all free countries. The people and the Government on their side have to give them their trust and assure them conditions of service in keeping with the lives of the people in whose midst they have to live and serve.

We welcome the Indian States which have acceded to India and to their people we offer our hands of comradeship. To the princes and the rulers of the States we say that we have no designs against them. We trust they will follow the example of the King of England and become constitutional rulers. They would do well to take as their model the British monarchical system which has stood the shock of two successive World Wars when so many other monarchies in Europe have toppled down.

To Indians settled abroad in British Colonies and elsewhere we send our good wishes and assurance of our abiding interest in their welfare. To our minorities we give the assurance that they will receive fair and just treatment and their rights will be respected and protected.

One of the great tasks which we have in hand is to complete the Constitution under which not only will freedom and liberty be assured to each and all but which will enable us to achieve and attain and enjoy its fulfilment and its fruits. We must accomplish this task as soon as possible so that we may begin to live and work under a Constitution of our own making, of which we may all be proud, and which it may become our pride and privilege to defend and to preserve to the lasting good of our people and for the service of mankind. In framing that

Constitution we shall naturally draw upon the experience and knowledge of other countries and nations no less than on our own traditions and surroundings and may have at times to disregard the lines drawn by recent history and lay down new boundary lines not only of Provinces but also of distribution of powers and functions. Our ideal is to have a Constitution that will enable the people's will to be expressed and enforced and that will not only secure liberty to the individual but also reconcile and make that liberty subservient to the common good.

We have up to now been taking a pledge to achieve freedom and to undergo all sufferings and sacrifices for it. Time has come when we have to take a pledge of another kind. Let no one imagine that the time for work and sacrifice is gone and the time for enjoying the fruits thereof has come. Let us realise that the demand on our enthusiasm and capacity for unselfish work in the future will be as great as, if not greater than, what it has ever been before. We have, therefore, to dedicate ourselves once again to the great cause that beckons us. The task is great, the times are propitious. Let us pray that we may have the strength, the wisdom and the courage to fulfil it.

HOISTING OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

Mr. President: His Excellency will now give the signal for hoisting the Flag.

(*The sound of a gun being fired was heard.*)

H.E. The Governor-General: That is the signal for hoisting the flag over this roof.

Mr. President: The House now stands adjourned till 10 of the clock on the 20th.

Honourable Members: *Mahatma Gandhi ki jai.*

Mahatma Gandhi ki jai.
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ki jai.
Lord Mountbatten ki jai.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 of the Clock on Wednesday, the 20th August 1947.

BROADCAST BY PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

15 August 1947

FACE THE NEW TASKS WITH DETERMINATION*

Fellow Countrymen,

It has been my privilege to serve India and the cause of India's freedom for many years. Today I address you for the first time officially as the First Servant of the Indian people, pledged to their service and their betterment. I am here because you willed it so and I remain here so long as you choose to honour me with your confidence. We are a free and sovereign people today and we have rid ourselves of the burden of the past. We look at the world with clear and friendly eyes and at the future with faith and confidence. The burden of foreign domination is done away with, but freedom brings its own responsibilities and burdens, and they can only be shouldered in the spirit of a free people, self-disciplined and determined to preserve and enlarge that freedom. We have achieved much, we have to achieve much more. Let us then address ourselves to our new tasks with the determination and adherence to high principles which our great leader has taught us.

Mahatma Gandhi is fortunately with us to guide and inspire and ever to point to us the path of high endeavour. He taught us long ago that ideals and objectives can never be divorced from the methods adopted to realize them, that worthy ends can only be achieved through worthy means. If we aim at the big things of life, if we dream of India as a great nation giving her age-old message of peace and freedom to others, then we have to be big ourselves and worthy children of Mother India. The eyes of the world are upon us, watching this birth of freedom in the East and wondering what it means.

Our first and immediate objective must be to put an end to all internal strife and violence, which disfigure and degrade us

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*Source: *Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru*, Second Series, Volume 3, Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, Teen Murti House, New Delhi, 1985, p. 137-138.

and injure the cause of freedom. They come in the way of consideration of the great economic problems of the masses of the people which so urgently demand attention. Our long subjection and the World War and its aftermath have made us inherit an accumulation of vital problems; and today our people lack food and clothing and other necessaries, and we are caught in a spiral of inflation and rising prices. We cannot solve these problems suddenly, but we cannot also delay their solution. So we must plan wisely so that the burdens on the masses may grow less, and their standards of living go up. We wish ill to none. But it must be clearly understood that the interests of our long-suffering masses must come first and every entrenched interest that comes in their way must yield to them. We have to change rapidly our antiquated land tenure system and we have also to promote industrialization on a large and balanced scale so as to add to the wealth of the country and thus to the national dividend which can be equitably distributed.

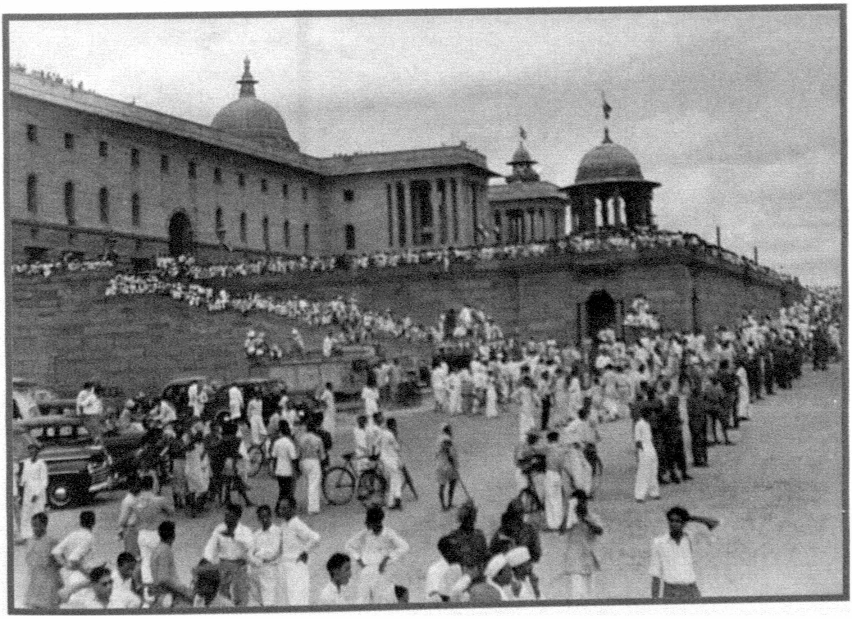
Production today is the first priority, and every attempt to hamper or lessen production is injuring the nation and is more especially harmful to our labouring masses. But production by itself is not enough, for this may lead to an even greater concentration of wealth in a few hands, which comes in the way of progress and which, in the context of today, produces instability and conflict. Therefore, fair and equitable distribution is essential for any solution of the problem.

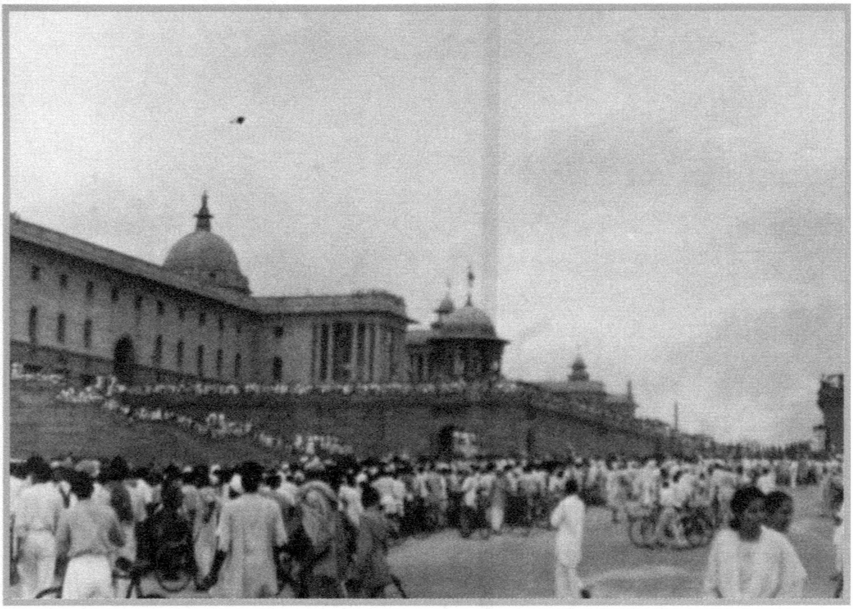
The Government of India have in hand at present several vast schemes for developing river valleys by controlling the flow of rivers, building dams and reservoirs and irrigation works and developing hydro-electric power. These will lead to greater food production and to the growth of industry and to all-round development. These schemes are thus basic to all planning and we intend to complete them as rapidly as possible so that the masses may profit. All this requires peaceful conditions and the co-operation of all concerned, and hard and continuous work. Let us then address ourselves to these great and worthy tasks and forget our mutual wrangling and conflicts. There is a time for quarrelling and there is a time for co-operative endeavour. There is a time for work and there is a time for play. Today there is no time for quarrelling or overmuch play, unless we prove false to our country and our people. Today we must co-operate with one another and work together and work with right goodwill.

I should like to address a few words to our services, civil and military. The old distinctions and differences are gone, and today we are all free sons and daughters of India, proud of our country's freedom and joining together in our service to her. Our common allegiance is to India. In the difficult days ahead our Services and our experts have a vital role to fulfil and we invite them to do so as comrades in the service of India.

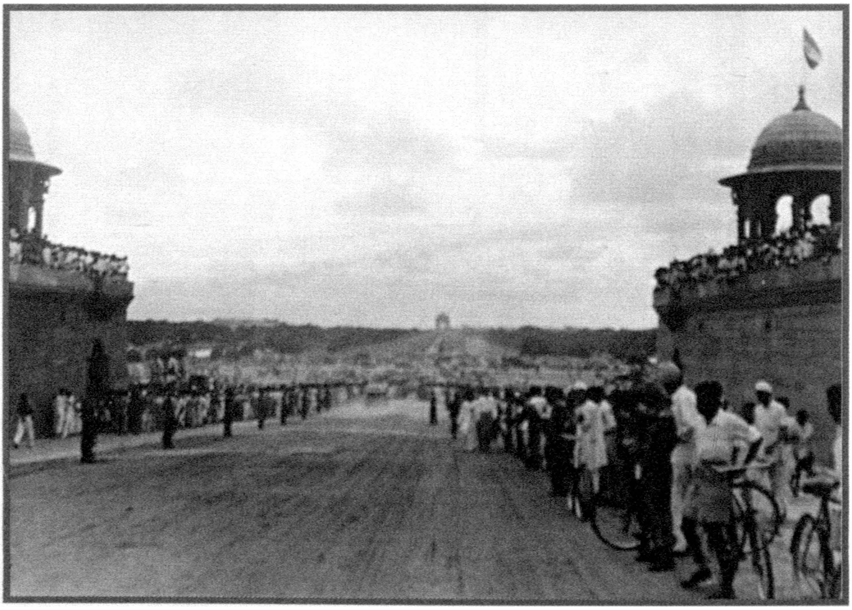
Jai Hind !

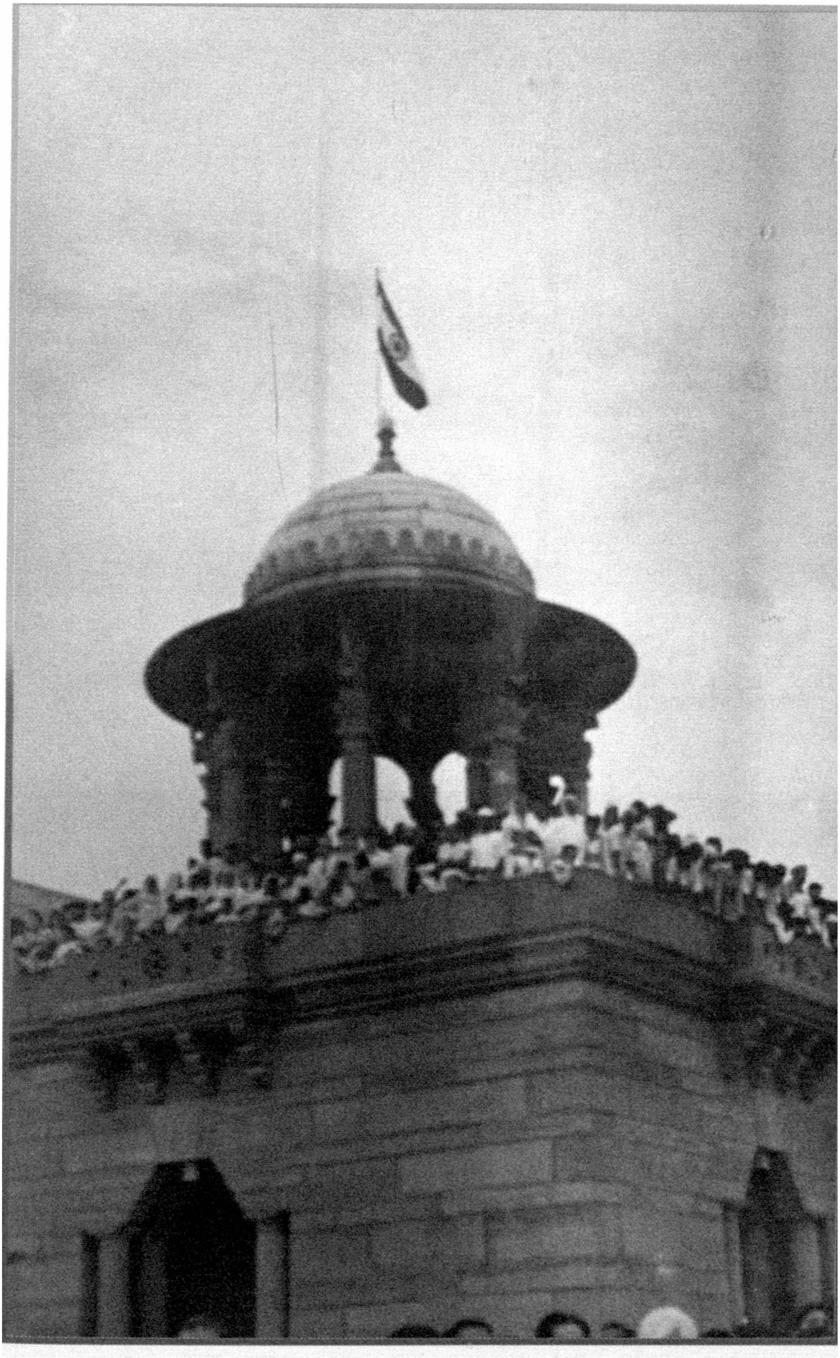
Independence Day Celebrations outside Parliament House/ Secretariat Buildings, New Delhi, 15 August 1947



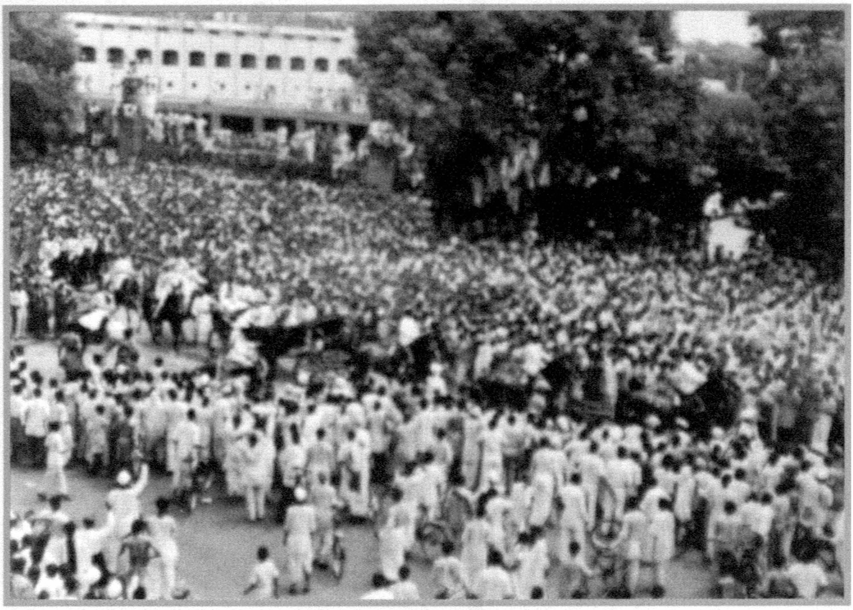


People Celebrating Independence Day outside the Secretariat Buildings, 15 August 1947

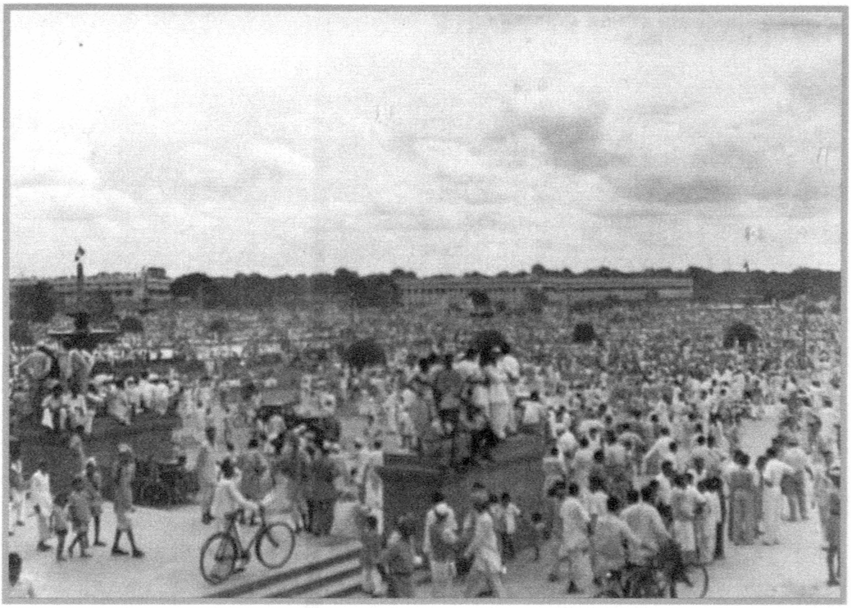




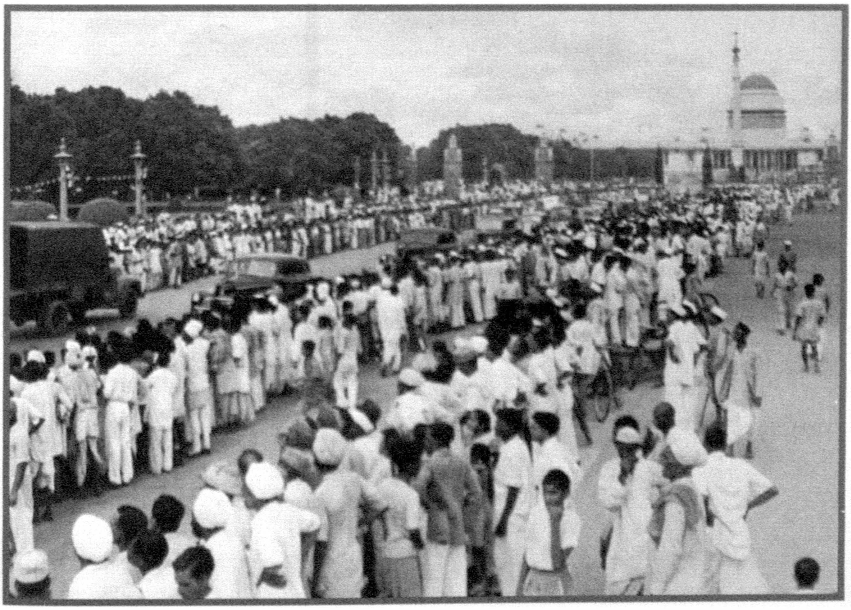
People atop the Secretariat Building in New Delhi on 15 August 1947



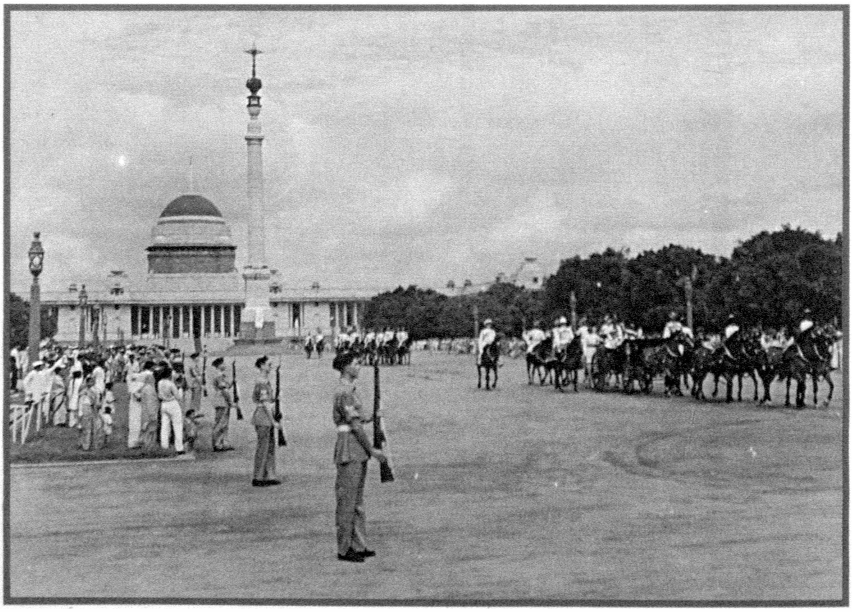
Independence Day Celebrations in New Delhi on 15 August 1947



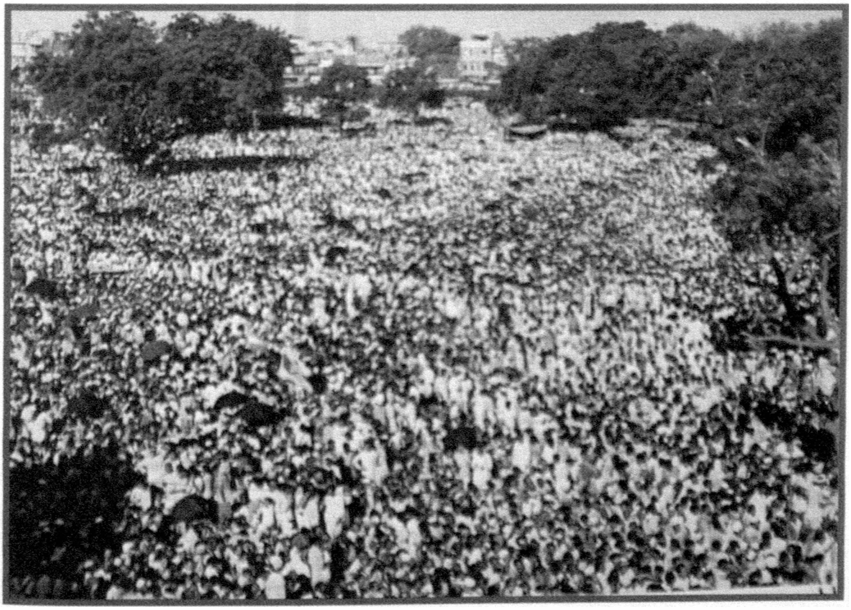
Independence Day Celebrations outside the Viceroy House
(Presently Rashtrapati Bhawan), 15 August 1947



Independence Day Celebrations, 15 August 1947



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Lord and Lady Mountbatten greeting
people on the Independence Day Celebrations,
New Delhi, 15 August 1947



BROADCAST BY DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD

15 August 1947

INDIA AT THE DAWN OF FREEDOM*

Today we have assumed the responsibility for the governance of our country, and we are thankful to Almighty God, who has made this possible. We pay our homage to those whose sacrifices have made us worthy of this great occasion and to Mahatma Gandhi who had led us to this achievement. We can now make or mar the destiny of our great nation. Sloth, apathy and cowardice can drag us down and therefore with a full realization of our responsibility we have to guide our country towards progress and prosperity. The time is not yet for us to sit back to enjoy the fruits of endeavour; the eyes of the world are on us watching what success we make of our new freedom and how we lead our country towards peace and progress.

India is inhabited by people of diverse religions and different creeds—some of them are in a very small minority. Whether there is a minority of one individual, a small group or a large section, justice and fair play should be guaranteed to all. All should be assured the right of progress; the minorities must be convinced that there will be no discrimination against them because of the differences of religion and creed, and in common with the rest of the people, they will have equality of rights, opportunity, peace and progress.

As an aftermath of war colossal problems face us. We are up against shortages of all kinds—scarcity of food, cloth and shortages of building materials. Not only is there a shortage of production, but we lack even the means of production. The problem before us therefore, is how to meet these shortages, make available the necessities of life and check the spiral of rising prices.

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*Source: As reported in *The Hindu,* 18 August 1947.

Take food scarcity for instance. There is no doubt that there is a shortage of food, but the prices which we have to pay are out of all proportions to the extent of the scarcity. The deficit is $12^1/_2$ per cent. We have to pay prices which are about 300 to 400 per cent. It is the same story in other directions also. The reasons to my mind are two: first, the interdependence of prices of all commodities and a second of shortage of goods while there is an abundance of purchasing power. The remedy lies in increased production in all directions. We must not forget that many parts of the country face condition of acute shortage, bordering on famine.

The abolition of Salt Tax should have meant cheaper salt but today not only prices soared, but in some places, no salt is available. We have to step up production on the one hand and on the other prevent people taking undue advantage of scarcity conditions. All of us, whether peasant, labourer or merchant must pull together to help our country.

The period of struggle against the British Government is over and the time has now come for peaceful, constructive efforts. I have drawn your attention towards increased production wherein lies a vast field of endeavour in which all can help. The educationist has to achieve; those interested in improving health and fighting disease have great problems to solve and as for those who want to increase the material prosperity of India, great opportunities lie ahead. We do not produce all the things we need. Even some of the tiniest but essential commodities are not produced here.

I return to agriculture and the need to increase the milk supply in India. For, these are so vital to our very existence. We have to think hard and labour hard if we are to increase our food production and improve our cattle and milk supply.

Our ties, with the outside world must be strengthened. At home, we have to ensure good Government. We need an army of determined, disciplined capable young men for the task ahead of this country.

In our villages, great tasks of reconstruction awaits us, for India is a land of small villages, which we have neglected so far. We have to pay more attention not only to agriculture but also village industries. We have vast manpower at our disposal. It would be folly not to utilize this to our best advantage. We must so plan that the vast population is not deprived of the primary necessities of food and clothing. This can be achieved, and I am confident that we will not fail.

The task of Government is difficult, sometimes even distasteful. It involves on the one hand, protection of the people and on the other suppression of those who are out to disrupt society or to exploit the difficulties of others. In this critical period of our newly born freedom, we must get the cooperation of all and act with restraint and discipline. This is the hour for hard work before us lies a vast field for effort, in which all can labour according to his individual will. The nation can march from progress to progress, with the help and cooperation of all.

ADDRESS BY PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU FROM THE RED FORT AFTER HOISTING THE NATIONAL FLAG

16 August 1947

THE HONOUR OF THE FLAG*

We have gathered here on a historic occasion at this ancient fort to win back what was ours. This flag does not symbolize the triumph of individuals or the Congress but the triumph of the whole country. The free flag of India is the symbol of freedom and democracy not only for India but for the whole world. India, Asia and the world must rejoice on this great day.

This fort has witnessed many vicissitudes. You also know what happened during the last 27 years when we struggled and made sacrifices under this flag. I need not tell you all that happened during this period. What is worth recalling is that we had taken a pledge that we shall lay down our lives for the honour and dignity of this flag and would never allow it to be lowered whatever might be the consequences. That pledge has been fulfilled. The country has achieved freedom under the brilliant leadership and guidance of Mahatma Gandhi. Our technique of fighting was different from that of other countries. Sometimes we had faltered and stumbled but finally we reached our goal. If credit is due to any man today it is to Gandhiji.

On this day we must remember those who have made sacrifices and suffered for the cause of independence. It is needless for me to name all of them, but I cannot help mentioning Subhas Chandra Bose who left this country and formed the Indian National Army abroad and fought bravely for the freedom of the country. He hoisted this flag in foreign countries and when the day came for hoisting it on the Red Fort, he was not to see his dream fulfilled. This should have been the day of his return, but alas he is no longer in this world.

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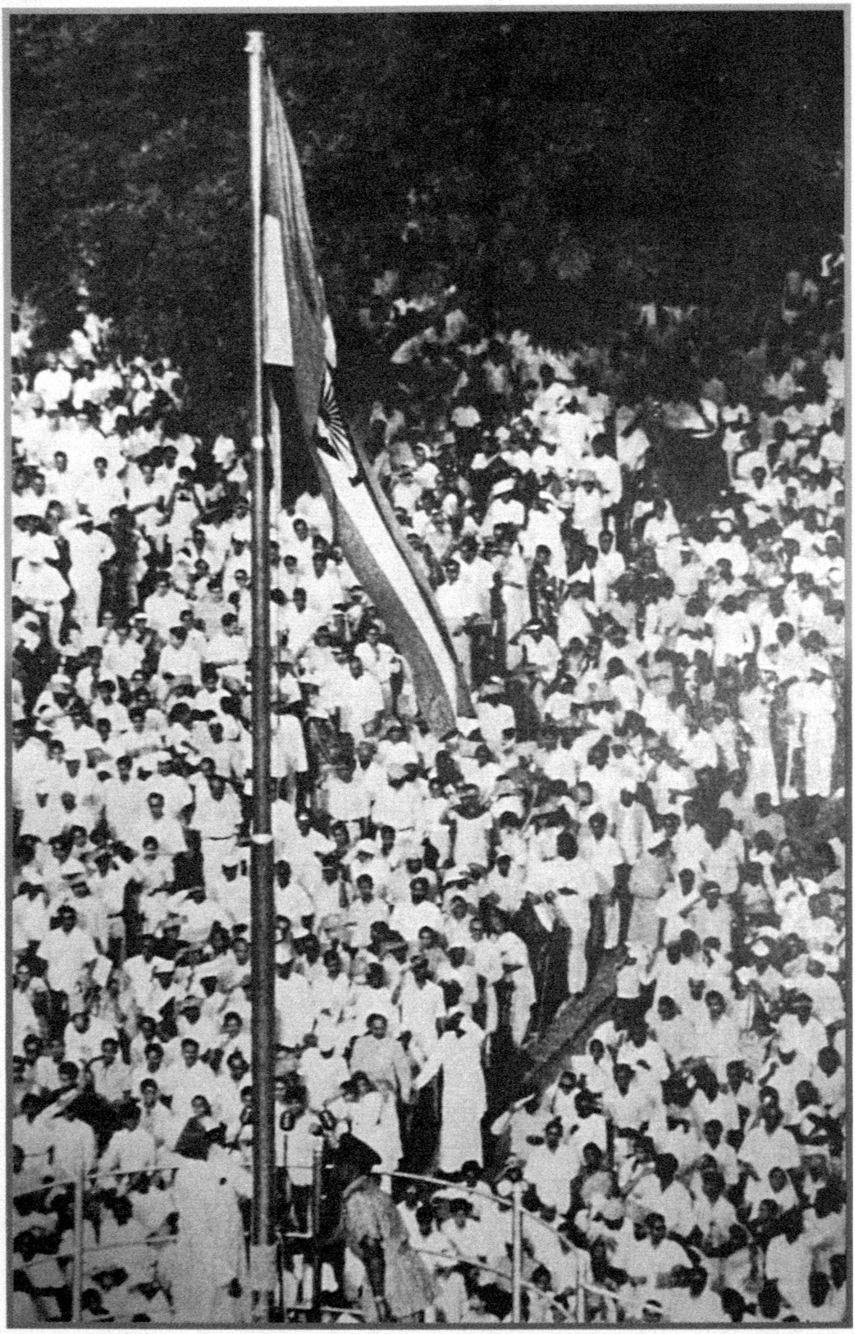
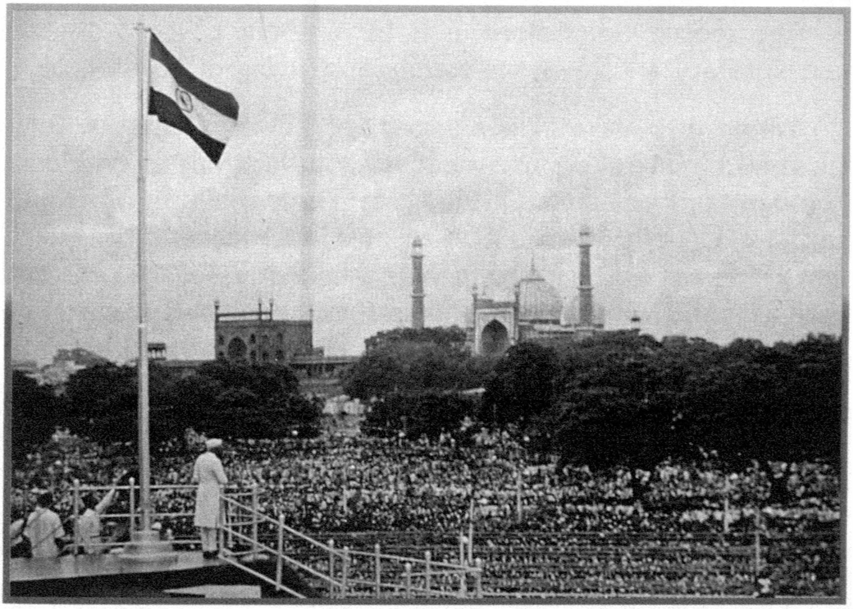
*Source: *Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru*, Second Series, Volume 4, Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, Teen Murti House, New Delhi, 1986, p. 2-3.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru unfurling the National Flag
at the Red Fort, 16 August 1947



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, 16 August 1947

The first charge of the Government will be to establish and maintain peace and tranquility in the land and to ruthlessly suppress communal strife, for no government worth the name can look on while law-abiding citizens are leading a precarious life; while dealing with lawlessness there can be no discrimination. It is wrong to suggest that in this country there would be the rule of a particular religion or sect. All who owe allegiance to the flag will enjoy equal rights of citizenship, irrespective of caste or creed. But those who create mischief or trouble are our enemies and they shall be dealt with severely. The Government cannot do this work without the full cooperation of the people.

The second task before us is to wipe out poverty, disease and illiteracy and raise the standard of living of our people.

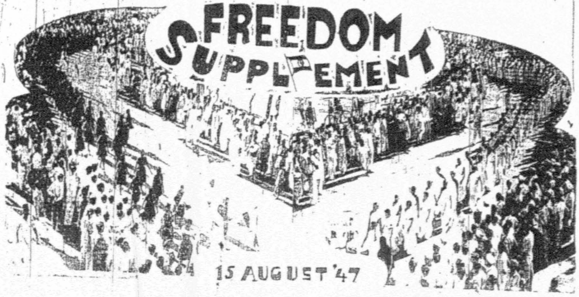
We have to make India a strong and powerful country. Only those countries can become great which have strong foundations. The dawn of freedom has placed great responsibilities on us and we have to carry them out in an efficient manner. We cannot move forward without the people's cooperation. We are not here as Prime Ministers and Ministers, but as humble servants of the country. My Government would strive to be truly representative of the people. The masses have now become the real rulers in the country and the strength or the weakness of the Government would depend upon the people. All of us are in the Government because people want us to be there. We will quit when the people wish it.

All of you know what a tremendous influence India had in the past and it can have even greater influence today. Our nation can either stand or fall. If it stands it will stand higher than many other nations. This is the time for her to stand and aid other nations. In fact our freedom signalizes the freedom of other nations not only of Asia but of the whole world. Therefore, this is a day of rejoicing not only for us but for the whole world. You who are gathered here in lakhs must remember that the eyes of millions of people all over the world are turned towards you.

I must mention our armed forces who are a source of pride to the nation. They now belong to the nation and not to any foreign power. It would be their duty to guard and protect the honour of the nation and its flag. We must all take a pledge that we shall live as one and work to perpetuate our freedom and prosperity to the masses. We have to reach that stage when no one in this country will be poor and starving or without clothes and education. Although we have achieved our freedom, that is only a milestone—the first stage on the journey to the higher goal of universal peace and prosperity. We have a long way to go.

PRESS COVERAGE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Bombay Chronicle



Dedicated To Mahatma Gandhi-The Father Of Our Nation

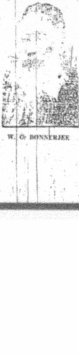
Hindustan Hamara

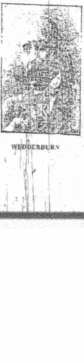
[illegible] se achha Hindostan h[illegible]
Ham [illegible] hain iski yeh gulsitan hamara
[illegible] hamsaya
[illegible] hamara [illegible] pasban hamara
[illegible]

Vande Mataram!

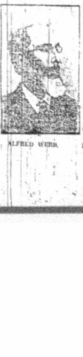
Sujalam suphalam malayaja sheetalam
Sasyashyamalam Mataram!
Vande Mataram!
Shubhrajyotsna pulakita-yamineem,
Phullakusumita drumadala shobhineem,
Suhasineem sumadhurabhashineem,
Sukhadam, varadam, Mataram,
Vande Mataram!

OCTAVIAN HUME


W. C. BONNERJEE


WEDDERBURN

BUDRUDDIN TYABJI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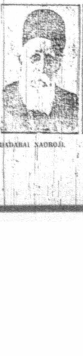
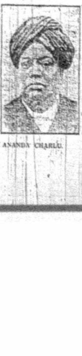

DADABAI NAOROJI


ANANDA CHARLU

GEORGE YULE

SIR P. M. MEHTA

LOKMANYA TILAK

Halfway House Of Freedom

By K. F. Nariman

This is the first time, perhaps in the history of the World, or of any Nation, that the celebrations on the advent of Freedom and Liberty is opposed by a section of the very people, that would ultimately enjoy the benefits of that achievement.

"Independence Days" have been observed and celebrated by so many Nations, big and small, that have gained their goal and objective after years of suffering and sacrifice. But so far as we are aware, that celebration has been universal without being marred by any opposition or obstruction.

An occasion like this should not need any propaganda or planned programme. It must be spontaneous, arising out of an inner urge from all the people and should need no external incentive or goading. Every individual must naturally feel as if some great benefit and gain was conferred on him individually, and it should be observed as the most joyous and auspicious occasion for every family and home.

Value Not Appreciated

Perhaps, because we have achieved this long-delayed goal rather too suddenly and earlier than most of us have dreamt that its real worth and value is not so much appreciated by many.

Whilst it is natural that a very large section of the people should participate in celebrating what is rightly considered as the greatest, most eventful and most glorious day in the History of our country we must also appreciate and try to understand the sentiments and feelings of those who refuse to join, and even desire to mar this festive occasion with hostile demonstration. They too are as patriotic and sincere and there is undoubtedly and admittedly dark and tragic side of this apparently cheerful picture.

To them the vivisection of the Motherland is a greater calamity to be deplored and mourned, than partial and distorted liberation. There is undoubtedly a genuine feeling of apprehension, suspense and uncertainty about the future in the minds of minorities of both the communities in the divided States. The Hindus in Pakistan and the Muslims in the Union of India are not at all happy over the change and there are many who would have preferred the existing position to continue wherein they enjoyed at least peace and security.

Appeasement Of Princes

Then again, for the millions of less fortunate Indian State subjects it is certainly a change for the worse because hitherto the exercise of Paramountcy was a check against misrule and mismanagement in the does it matter whether the old Union Jack or the new Tricolour flies over public buildings?

For empty stomachs the only joy is bread; to the naked, a rag of cloth would please more than the blaze of electricity. It would have been better if instead of wasting thousands on illuminations, demonstrations and decorations, these amounts had been spent to give at least one or two square meals to the thousands of these lean skeletons.

Remember The Heroes!

But these very enchanting words "Freedom and Independence" have such a magnetic charm and attraction about them, though mutilated, truncated and incomplete as it is still we cling to this phantom with unbounded joy and enthusiasm. Love for "Freedom" is really "Blind" and hence it is but natural that those who have clamoured and thirsted for it for years and those who have suffered and sacrificed for the goal and those who have waited for it for generations with patience, should now dance with joy at its advent and welcome its heralded approach.

Lastly, this occasion should be more of sobriety and solemnity, than of empty demonstrations; let us not forget the National Heroes of the past whose suffering and sacrifices and patriotic devotion has brought us today even to this halfway "House of Freedom." The foundation and more than half the structure was laid and built by their labours, wisdom and statesmanship; the final plastering and partial dismantling of their work is the result of present leadership.

In the long list of the patriotic band of National Heroes from Dadabhai Nowrojee downwards, the one outstanding figure of more recent time, Netaji Subhas Bose will stand out prominently as the last of the greatest of commanders who led the triumphant victorious I.N.A. to this much cherished final goal.

It was his militant, practical and rational leadership that had galvanised and electrified the whole country, thus making it too hot an abode for the foreign imperialists to continue any longer.

It was not a mere 1942 slogan of "Quit India" of the Congress but the more militant marching with the slogan of "Chalo Delhi" of the more recent times, that has ultimately opened the front gates for freedom and ejecting the imperialism through the rear door.

It was not at the talk-shop of Conference, but in the battle-fields of Kohima, littered with corpses of Indian martyrs that freedom battle was fought and won.

The Unknown Heroes

Courtesy: "Freedom's Struggle"

On this historic day, India salutes to the sacred memory of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose!

August 15, 1947, will beyond any doubt go down in Indian history as a memorable date. It ends a chapter which possibly began with the battle of Plassey if not with the granting of the Charter to the East India Company by Queen Elizabeth.

Much water—and much blood—have passed under the Indian bridges during these centuries, and perhaps it is because of that circumstance, and particularly because of the character of the culminating phase of the British connection with India, that many of us today are not in a position properly to assess this great moment. Yet it is essential that we should see this historic event in proper perspective.

What has actually happened definitely falls short of the ideals which Indians have cherished from time immemorial, and for realising which recent generations served and sacrificed with complete self-dedication. The goal at which we have aimed was a free and united India. By strange irony the advent of our freedom has marked the destruction of Indian unity in the historical

stance of that very considerable deliverance. Nor, on the other hand, should we seek to magnify its import or its implications. The occasion indeed calls for our taking stock of our national situation with humility and detachment. I can well understand the feelings which have inspired Mahatma Gandhi to declare that Independence Day should be observed with prayerful heart-searching rather than with formal celebrations.

The two things need not be necessarily mutually exclusive. The people of India have been denied any real happiness for so long that it is only right that they should get away from their eternal melancholy if only for a spell of legitimate celebration. And this occasion may well mark the beginning of a more joyous attitude to life on the part of the Indian people. The funereal atmosphere which has hung like a pall on the soul of India must now be dissipated, and Indians should move on to a new plane of normal and wholesome activity and ambition.

tion breeds fanaticism, and fanaticism in its turn spawns bigotry, intolerance, narrowness and sectarianism. India has been glutted with the poisonous outcroppings of this foul brood.

FACES TOWARDS DAWN

It is my profound conviction that these inner cankers, long neglected, were more responsible than any other single factor for the political dismemberment of India. Imperialist agents, corrupt politicians and misguided zealots no doubt each played their part in severing Indian unity, but neither individually nor collectively could they have succeeded if it were not for the fact that our whole national organism was already so conditioned as to be responsive to their machinations.

All Indians must now turn their faces to the new dawn. We cannot raise the fair structure of authentic national freedom on rotten foundations. We are henceforth officially going to be called the Union of India. It will not be enough if this Union of India is merely a political device

The Enemy Is Within Our Gate!

By Dr. Krishnalal Shridharani

In order to insure our freedom, says the author of this thought provoking article, we must have a School for Leaders!

ON August 15th, 1947, India has a rendezvous with destiny. There will be great rejoicing all over the country on the day India crosses the threshold from tutelage to freedom. India will be drunk on that day with the spirit of the coming of age.

But to my mind, August 16th, 1947, will be more important. For on that morning after the night before we will get down to serious business. The sense of new responsibility will sober our celebration-excited nerves. On that very day, and not a day later, we must rush to Freedom Insurance Company, Inc., to take a policy in favour of our new acquisition. Freedom is not a state of affair, but a living process.

Freedom has to be won anew each day. Freedom is the way free people live.

Let us have clear thinking on the point. Our country, graduating to freedom, will stand in no immediate danger of invasion by another. The day is long past when one country can physically annex another in isolation. We have no enemy outside our gates lurking to pounce upon us as soon as the British might is withdrawn. The enemy, if any, is within our gates. We have to insure ourselves against ourselves. In other words, the common man of the country has to be vigilant all the time so that the alien exploiters are not replaced by swadeshi ones.

First Freedom

Power corrupts. The only guarantee against the corruption of power is the freedom of thought on the part of a country's citizens. The priority of the mind over the body is truer in India than in most of the countries of the world. The plant of democracy has just taken roots in our soil and it will be a long time before it becomes a big banyan tree, sturdy enough to weather the winds of greed and megalomania. Unless there is democratic thinking in the country, no amount of blind action will avail.

On the morrow of independence, our first need will be for a stable government which can bring to our land peace and increased production. Before we get into an ideological battle, we will have to feed our masses and clothe them and shelter them. It is not a job that can be done overnight. People will be impatient. No Government can satisfy all the people. We will have to learn, therefore, how to be generous in our judgment of the men who hold the helm of the Ship of the State. They have inherited an unholy mess, and all of them cannot be super-men. They will need our support, and, above all, they will need our faith.

It is going to be hard for us because a tradition has grown up in the country to be hostile to men in position of power. We will have to grant our own leaders many loyalties that we refused to grant alien masters. Indeed, we must goad our leaders, but we cannot oppose them during this period of transition.

to the Conservatives on the one hand and to the radicals on the other. Yet the Congress will continue to hold the balance for some time and remain the Middle party.

Free Press—How?

On the morrow of independence, we will need a free press. Now this is a tricky question. Some people will think that our press will become automatically free as soon as alien oppression is eliminated. But it is harder to be independent of our own heroes than of alien rulers. Our press did its patriotic duty by upholding our heroes in whatever stand they took in their battle against imperialism. It became a habit, and habits die-hard. If our press continues to be the self-appointed publicity bureau of our heroes, it will fail to do its duty by democracy. It is difficult to tolerate criticism during wartime, but constructive criticism becomes an obligation during peacetime.

The press is the mightiest corrective of absolutism—but only when it is free. Our editors will have to show as much courage against our own heroes as they showed against the alien rulers. It may be that some of our own heroes will find it a bitter pill—accustomed as they are to blind and unquestioning obedience. But it is the right of a democratic people to push their leaders around. And no man with a God-complex is worthy of being a leader in democracy.

This clinches my point about types and types of hero-worship. During a struggle, whether violent or non-violent, we need the army mentality. We have to have a general who becomes the embodiment of all our aspirations and thus invokes our unflinching loyalty. So our hero-worship takes an intensive turn, and we begin to be swayed by fewer and fewer people until there remains only one man like the top of a pyramid. We see his face everywhere, and we endow him with all the virtues we can think of. No one else would satisfy us, so he has to give a lead in all the directions, including those in which he is a novice or ignoramus.

Heroes All

During normal times when we are building a democratic State, however, our hero-worship should take an extensive trend instead of an intensive one. We must have many many more heroes until there comes a time when we will have as many heroes as citizens; democracy means the dignity of the common men. And we must have heroes in fields other than politics, as in America; in art, literature, business, industry, labour movement, cinema, sports, etc. Here the press of the country can render a service by making new leaders out of new men. At present each day our front pages print the same faces and the utterances of the same handful of people.

Enterprising reporters will find that there is news in other people also

✿ अवश्य पढ़िये ✿
आजाद हिन्दुस्तान की राजधानी से प्रकाशित होने वाला—हिन्दी का एकमात्र प्रगतिशील मासिक—
नया कदम
मूल्य वार्षिक ५) एक प्रति ।)
लिखिये :—'नया कदम' कार्यालय
बल्ली मारान, दिल्ली

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नील कमल
मनोरंजक कहानियां, कवितायें, सिनेमा की खरी आलोचनायें तथा हास्य परिहास के लेख पढ़िये
वार्षिक ६) प्रति कापी ।)
नील कमल कार्यालय
२२४, इसप्लेनेड रोड, दिल्ली।
(परेड का मैदान)

वर्ष १४ अङ्क २२५ ✿ नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, श्रावण सौर ३०, २००४ NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947 ✿ मूल्य दो आना

शताब्दियों की दासता के बाद भारत में स्वतंत्रता का मंगल प्रभात

बापू की चिर तपस्या सफल

भारतीय विधान परिषद् द्वारा शासन सत्ता ग्रहण

रात के १२ बजे शंखध्वनि के साथ स्वतन्त्रता की घोषणा

जय हिन्द! आज भारत स्वतन्त्र है। दो शताब्दियों की दासता के बाद आज देश के प्राण व विश्ववन्द्य महात्मा गांधी की चिर तपस्या फलीभूत हुई है और हम स्वतन्त्र वायुमण्डल में सांस ले रहे हैं। इस ऐतिहासिक अवसर पर देश के कोने-कोने में स्वतन्त्रता-समारोह की धूम है और दिवाली मनाई जा रही है।

नई दिल्ली, १४ अगस्त

आज आधी रात के समय विधान परिषद् ने जिसमें हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों के चुने हुए प्रतिनिधि शामिल हैं, सार्वभौम सत्ता अपने हाथों में ली और उसके सदस्यों ने गम्भीरता पूर्वक हिन्दुस्तान और उसके लोगों की सेवा की शपथ ली।

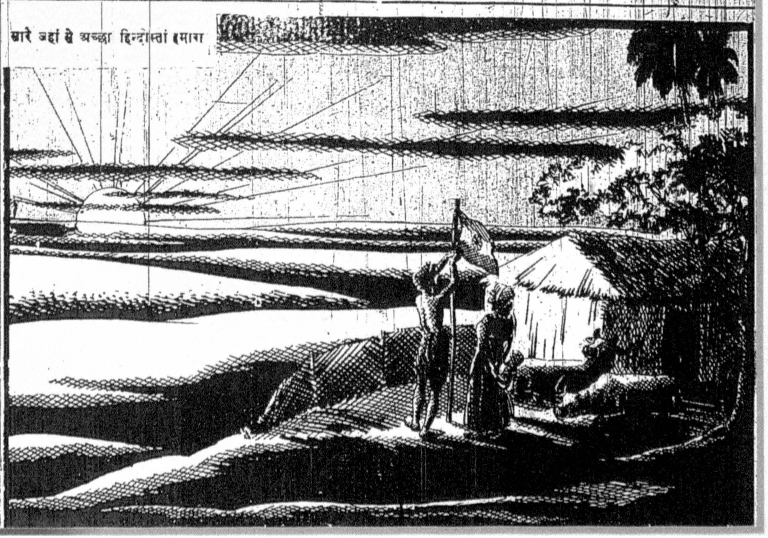
७५ मिनिट तक परिषद् की बैठक होने के बाद, जिस में उसने शासन की सत्ता अपने हाथ में ली और लार्ड माउन्टबेटन की गवर्नर जनरल के रूप में नियुक्ति का समर्थन किया, डा० राजेन्द्रप्रसाद और पं० जवाहरलाल नेहरू लार्ड माउन्टबेटन को परिषद् के निर्णय की सूचना देने वायसराय भवन में गये।

इसके बाद श्रीमती हंसा मेहता का हिन्दुस्तान के नारी समाज की ओर से परिषद् को भेंट किया हुआ राष्ट्रीय झण्डा फहराया गया। भवन के बाहर खड़े हुए हजारों लोगों ने

✠ ✠

हमारा राष्ट्र गान

वन्देमातरम्!
सुजलाम् सुफलाम् मलयजशीतलाम्,
शस्य श्यामलाम्, मातरम्!
वन्देमातरम्!
शुभ्र ज्योत्सनाम्, पुलकित यामिनीम्,
फुल्ल कुसुमित द्रुमदल शोभिनीम्!
सुहासिनीम् सुमधुरभाषिणीम्,
सुखदाम् वरदाम् मातरम्!
वन्देमातरम्!


सारे जहां से अच्छा हिन्दोस्तां हमारा

GREETINGS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Inspiring Messages Of Goodwill On Free India's Birthday

hant For Indian Freedom

ndia be free!
Vont that be
Himalayan dream?
low fantastic,
low absurd an idea,
hat never occurred to me!
wo scores of years ago,
ood people seemed to agree
reedom, a gentle voice
Vhispered that it should be the goal;
t first sprang from
tiny body but with a great soul
t started as a gentle wave
ut finally made the entire Indian Ocean roll.
ut as one wave after another in the ocean,
o moved on national aspirations unbound.
nbued with the spirit of freedom
he forces of revolution gathered around.
uddenly and incredibly triumphed Wisdom
herein East and West met on a common ground.
hat a miracle,
hat Independence can be
ithout a War!
istory will tell you!
has never happened before.
brave, forward,
lert on the chariot of Time!
hile approaching the mountain peak,
double your efforts to climb!
Villingly will you arrive at your Ideal
ty and beautiful, noble and sublime!

o the cause of Indian Freedom poem is fervently dedicated, on glorious day of the fifteenth of ust, 1947, as a message of good- from China.

CHIA-LUEN LO,
Ambassador of The Republic of China.

K. Natarajan.

ndia is divided but only to be re d more closely than ever. The al mission of the BOMBAY ONICLE is actively to promote process. Every moment since the pendence Act was enacted, we e how artificial is the division how impossible it would be to the two parts distinct.

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The People Are Immortal

By G. M. Syed

I AM a citizen of Pakistan and I look ahead with great expectancy to its fulfilment of the high hopes that it has aroused in our down-trodden masses.

There are some people who have seen in the partition of India a sure sign of ruination, a permanent state of mutual war-fare and growth of rival Fascisms in the two neighbouring Dominions. I can only hope that the future that lies ahead will falsify these gloomy forecasts.

It is the masses who have been behind the Congress and the League in achieving their respective goals. It is inconceivable that the true urges of the masses can be for ever frustrated and the early realization of their hopes and dreams indefinitely postponed, just because there exists in our midst an open conspiracy of the upper classes to keep the masses divided and permanently engaged in mutual hatred and fratricidal blood-shed.

RISE TO THE OCCASION

I feel confident that the genius of our great people is bound to rise to the occasion and assert itself in a firm resolve to build the future on the foundations of true freedom and justice. Instead of mourning over the tragedies of the past, it should be the sacred duty of all lovers of Freedom, both in Pakistan and Hindustan, to see that our future is moulded on the basis of a healthy rivalry between the two new States, a running race, indeed, as to which one is going to reach the earlier its final destiny of a full-fledged Socialist State, assuring justice and equality to its citizens and holding forth a comradely hand of hope and help to the down-trodden, exploited people all over the world.

Whatever may be our private feelings and sentiments, let us not forget that although India has been partitioned, the common people shall live for ever. The people are immortal, in every land, as history has shown from time to time. August 15th only marks the day of a fresh resolve on the part of our common people to rid themselves of their indigenous enemies, even as they have subdued the foreign enemy.

J. P. Galacher, M.P.

"I welcome the new opportunity provided by the transfer of power to Indian people. A great step has been won, but it is only a stage on the way to real freedom and independence. Hindus, Muslims, Untouchables, Sikhs and others must now recognise their common brotherhood, heal the wounds of the past and bridge all sectarian divisions and, as a united people, take

Cole's Message

"I am delighted to have the opportunity of sending a message of goodwill to the people of India on their achieving independence which I as an Englishman have always done my best to claim for them as their right.

The people of India and those who have charge of their fortunes have great problems to face, above all the supreme problem of lifting the ordinary man and woman, peasant and worker, out of their primary poverty to which they have been hitherto condemned.

May they find the right leaders and the right balance between agricultural and industrial development and between claims of economic advancement and of other means to good life, such as health services, education, political training in arts of self-government, toleration based on good fellowship and mutual respect.

I know Pt. Nehru to be a man with qualities needed not merely for leadership, but what is much more, for right leadership with good life for the mass of people as the supreme end in view.

I hope—I must express how much I hope — that despite the past, the advance of the Indian people will be made in friendly and equal association with the British people which have today problems of their own hardly less difficult than those which confront India.

There is among the British scientists a great fund of goodwill towards the Indian people and I hope that Indians who have much to forgive will not in resentment at the past throw their goodwill away. I don't say they will. The omens are a good deal better than before. Let us two people, across a world grown small, with mutual respect wish each other the best of the future and as much goodsense as it is given man to show in the management of our common affairs.

G. D. H. COLE.

Dr. Syed Mahmud, Minister, Bihar

"It is in the fitness of thing that the BOMBAY CHRONICLE, which has all along valiantly and fearlessly espoused the cause of the freedom of India should bring out a special supplement to celebrate the momentous occasion, when the people of India will be vested with the power of governing themselves, and of shaping their own destiny. The 15th of August will mark the turning point in the history of India, as it heralds the dawn of India's freedom."

Sir Chunilal Bhaichand Mehta

"August 15th will be a Red Letter Day in the history of India—that is

Eamon De Valera, President Of The Irish Free State

"Ireland wishes India god-speed and hopes that in freedom the Indian people will find unity, prosperity and happiness for themselves and an opportunity to play a significant part in promoting the well-being of the whole human race."

Azikiwe, President, National Council Of Nigeria, Cameroons.

"On behalf of 30 million people of Nigeria, whose cause is now being espoused in London by a political delegation of seven, I offer congratulations to the people of India on this historic occasion when they have arrogated to themselves the right to an independent national existence.

"The experience of India will be an inspiration to us and a lamp to guide our feet in the path of Freedom."

M. Kratochvil, Ambassador Of Czechoslovakia, London

"As the representative of a small nation which has always been progressively minded, I am glad to hear of progress made by other nations.

"I wish your people every possible success in future."

EDITH MOORE,

"We salute the progressive leaders of India whose constructive tasks are clear. We salute them as architects of new India, which ceasing to be called the brightest jewel in the British crown, may become that brightest of treasures—the crown to best of man's endeavours."

Janaganamana

Janaganamana Adhinayaka Jayahe!
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata!
Punjaba Sindha Gujerata Marathe
Dravida Utkala Vanga
Vindhya Himachala Jamuna Ganga,
uchchala jaladhitaranga
Tava shubha name jage,
Tava shubha ashisa mage,
Vahe tava jaya gatha!
Janagana Mangaladayaka Jayahe!
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata!
Jayahe! Jayahe! Jayahe!

B. G. Kher, Premier, Bombay

"Sir Phiroze Shah Mehta who founded the "Bombay Chronicle" was one of the pioneers of the nation's struggle for freedom. After years of struggle India has now emerged into the light of freedom.

"On this day of rejoicing we should do well to ponder deeply on how best we can make use of our liberty so that our country may become strong and prosperous in order to play a worthy part in the affairs of the world. By presenting facts fairly and truthfully and guiding public opinion in constructive and fruitful channels the Press can educate the public to understand and exercise their new responsibilities in a fitting manner. I wish the "Bombay Chronicle" and its readers a bright happy future."

Dr. M. D. Gilder, Minister, Bombay

"India has gained its independence by means which are unique in the history of the world. It is now for us to see that the independence so uniquely won and preserved untarnished for all time and is used for the betterment of the condition of the common man.

"The task before us is Himalayan, and cannot be accomplished unless we —each one of us—unite and pull together. Now that we have the power to do good, let us rejoice, let us forget our temporary differences, and let us all co-operate in creating a new economic order in which equality of opportunity shall prevail and every one shall be assured of the necessities of life. Thus shall India be able to hold up her head in the County of Nations and point the way to others."

L. M. Patil, Minister, Bombay

"It is in the fitness of things that your paper is bringing out a special supplement to celebrate the memorable event of the ushering of the complete Indian Independence. It is after constant toil and innumerable hardships of thousands of our countrymen that India has achieved her independence."

K. M. Munshi

"Independence has come sooner than anybody dreamt of. It is now for us to be ready to be worthy of it, to be strong enough to keep it, and to use it with the best advantage to humanity and the cause of freedom. It is necessary that we should shed the old outlook and develop the discipline and strength of mind by which alone strong and great nations are made."

Lord Halifax, Ex-Viceroy, India

"The new governments in India

Pressing Problems

(By ALLADI KRISHNASWAMI)

The 15th of August 1947 is a great day in the History of India, being the day of emancipation of an ancient people from foreign domination for over a century and a half.

It marks the crowning achievement of the long struggle for freedom fought under the banner of successive political leaders, the greatest of them all being of course Mahatma Gandhi under whose leadership for the last 27 years the country has fought its way to complete freedom with the weapon of non-violence.

The Indian Independence Act also redounds to the credit of Great Britain and its present leadership. With grace and foresight Britain has registered the "Quit India" demand of a nation claiming freedom as its birthright. This moment of India's emancipation may be to some extent marred by the thought of some parts of India going out of the Indian Union.

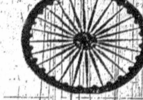
Hope Of Re-union

If only India can muster her material and moral resources and if prince peasant and labourer can harness their energies to the task of strengthening the bonds of union in India there is every hope that ere long the saparated parts of India will come into closer relationship with the rest of India.

If we have not the political vision, the strength and the will to consolidate our forces, we will not deserve the freedom that has been won.

The National Government of India has intricate problems to solve arising out of the independence the country has achieved and the partition arrangements between India and Pakistan. It has to shoulder a great responsibility and it will be judged by the measures it undertakes for the relief of economic distress, for the increased production and output of national wealth and for the equitable adjustment of apparently conflicting social and economic interests in the country.

The Dominion Constitution gives the new government and the Legislature ample power to undertake measures of a far-reaching character. Even the transition from the Dominion status to the Republican constitution and the republican constitution



To India's Flag

Proud ensign of a vast Dominion,
Unfurled, unchallenged, high, today you stand,
Waving from housetops in this fateful land,
Proclaiming Freedom's goal through suffering won!
For you in jails have rotted father son
And daughter; patriots 'neath a ruthless hand
Have bled for you, and, rallying in a band,
Have braved the bludgeon, bayonet and the gun.
Well may you sport your saffron, white and green,
For the fetters of a foreign rule no more
Shall hold the people down; Swaraj has come!
If any doubt, let him behold the scene,
With echo answering from land and shore
The rousing strains of "Vande Mataram."

S. R. D.

15th August 1947.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Message

Thanks to Mahatma Gandhi and the great national leaders who preceded him, India too has taken its share in the historic pilgrimage of human freedom. The victory against foreign domination— which we celebrate today is the nation's victory through its own efforts.

But it is not the end of our job. Millions face privation, hunger and disease and to conquer these petty quarrels will need to be forgotten and sectional self-interest laid aside. India faces a colossal task in harnessing the enthusiasm and energy of the people to the requirements of an Independent Nation.

Given the goodwill and co-operation of the people and the press, we are confident of our ability to surmount these difficulties.

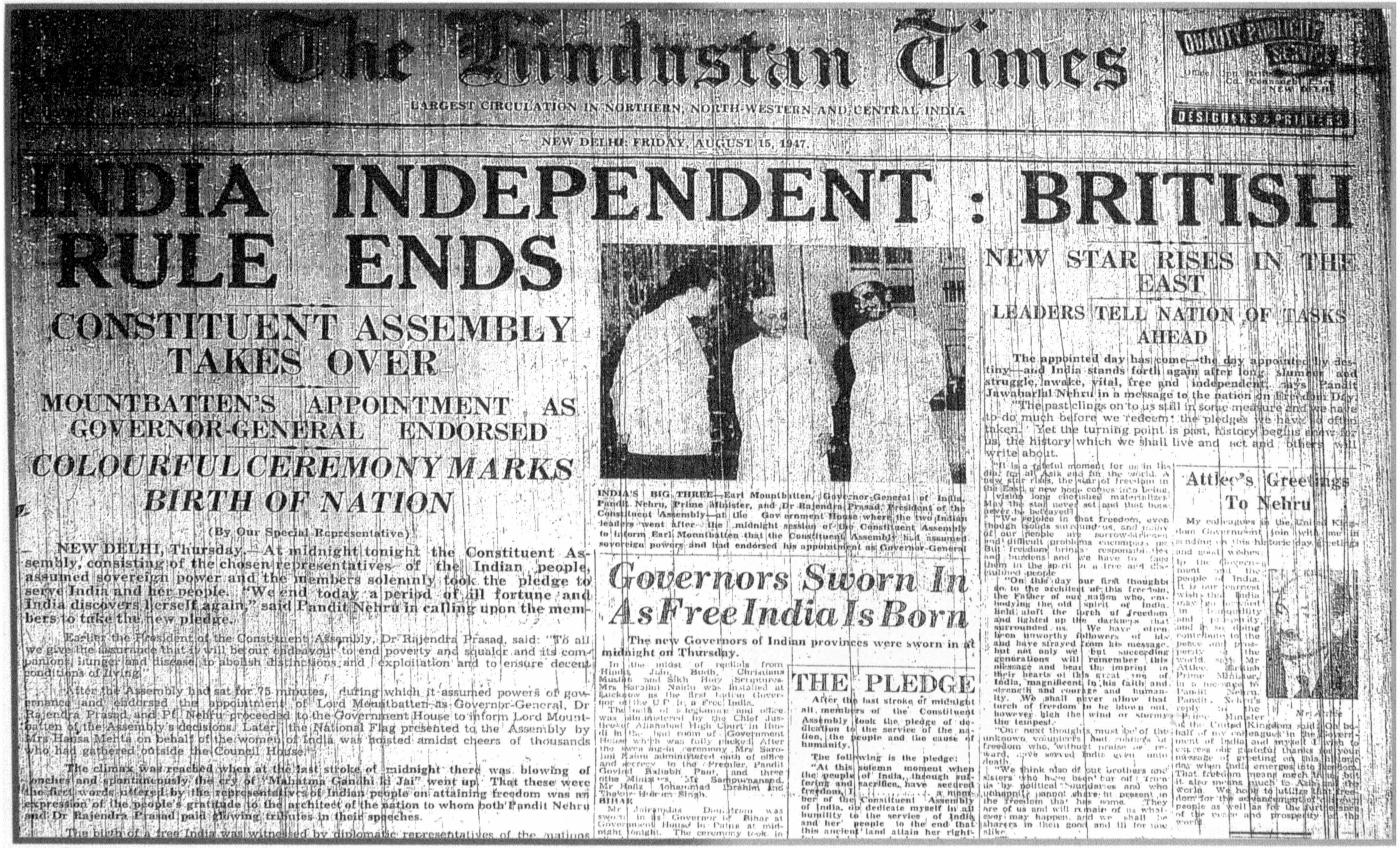
Ghulam Husain Hidayatullah, Governor, Sind.

"The complete transfer of power to the people of India is undoubtedly the most unique event in the history of our country.

tion being given effect to afford to wait until current measures for the alleviation of suffering and distress are taken on hand and pushed through.

JAI HIND

Let us Salute
THE FLAG OF FREE INDIA



The Hindustan Times

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN NORTHERN, NORTH-WESTERN AND CENTRAL INDIA

NEW DELHI: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947.

QUALITY PUBLICITY SERVICE
NEW DELHI
DESIGNERS & PRINTERS

INDIA INDEPENDENT : BRITISH RULE ENDS

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TAKES OVER

MOUNTBATTEN'S APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR-GENERAL ENDORSED

COLOURFUL CEREMONY MARKS BIRTH OF NATION

(By Our Special Representative)

NEW DELHI, Thursday.—At midnight tonight the Constituent Assembly, consisting of the chosen representatives of the Indian people, assumed sovereign power and the members solemnly took the pledge to serve India and her people. "We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again," said Pandit Nehru in calling upon the members to take the new pledge.

Earlier the President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr Rajendra Prasad, said: "To all we give the assurance that it will be our endeavour to end poverty and squalor and its companions, hunger and disease, to abolish distinctions and exploitation and to ensure decent conditions of living."

After the Assembly had sat for 75 minutes, during which it assumed powers of governance and endorsed the appointment of Lord Mountbatten as Governor-General, Dr Rajendra Prasad and Pt. Nehru proceeded to the Government House to inform Lord Mountbatten of the Assembly's decisions. Later, the National Flag presented to the Assembly by Mrs Hansa Mehta on behalf of the women of India was hoisted amidst cheers of thousands who had gathered outside the Council House.

The climax was reached when at the last stroke of midnight there was blowing of conches and spontaneously the cry of "Mahatma Gandhi ki Jai" went up. That these were the first words uttered by the representatives of Indian people on attaining freedom was an expression of the people's gratitude to the architect of the nation to whom both Pandit Nehru and Dr Rajendra Prasad paid glowing tributes in their speeches.

The birth of a free India was witnessed by diplomatic representatives of the nations

INDIA'S BIG THREE—Earl Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, and Dr Rajendra Prasad, President of the Constituent Assembly—at the Government House where the two Indian leaders went after the midnight session of the Constituent Assembly to inform Earl Mountbatten that the Constituent Assembly had assumed sovereign powers and had endorsed his appointment as Governor-General

Governors Sworn In As Free India Is Born

The new Governors of Indian provinces were sworn in at midnight on Thursday.

In the midst of recitals from Hindu, Jain, Budh, Christians Muslim and Sikh Holy Scriptures, Mrs Sarojini Naidu was installed at Lucknow as the first Indian Governor of the U.P. in a Free India.

The oath of allegiance and office was administered by the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court in Hindi in the [illegible] room of Government House which was fully packed. After the swearing-in ceremony Mrs Sarojini Naidu administered oath of office and secrecy to the Premier, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, and three other Ministers, Mr Sampurnanand, Mr Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim and Thakur Hukum Singh.

BIHAR

Mr Jairamdas Doulatram was sworn in as Governor of Bihar at Government House in Patna at midnight tonight. The ceremony took in

THE PLEDGE

After the last stroke of midnight all members of the Constituent Assembly took the pledge of dedication to the service of the nation, the people and the cause of humanity.

The following is the pledge:

"At this solemn moment when the people of India, through suffering and sacrifice, have secured freedom, I, ..., a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, do dedicate myself in all humility to the service of India and her people to the end that this ancient land attain her right-

NEW STAR RISES IN THE EAST

LEADERS TELL NATION OF TASKS AHEAD

The appointed day has come—the day appointed by destiny—and India stands forth again after long slumber and struggle, awake, vital, free and independent, says Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in a message to the nation on Freedom Day.

"The past clings on to us still in some measure and we have to do much before we redeem the pledges we have so often taken. Yet the turning point is past, history begins anew for us, the history which we shall live and act and others will write about.

"It is a fateful moment for us in India, for all Asia and for the world. A new star rises, the star of freedom in the East, a new hope comes into being, a vision long cherished materializes. May the star never set and that hope never be betrayed!

"We rejoice in that freedom, even though clouds surround us, and many of our people are sorrow-stricken and difficult problems encompass us. But freedom brings responsibilities and burdens and we have to face them in the spirit of a free and disciplined people.

"On this day our first thoughts go to the architect of this freedom, the Father of our nation who, embodying the old spirit of India, held aloft the torch of freedom and lighted up the darkness that surrounded us. We have often been unworthy followers of his and have strayed from his message, but not only we but succeeding generations will remember this message and bear the imprint in their hearts of this great son of India, magnificent in his faith and strength and courage and humanity. We shall never allow that torch of freedom to be blown out, however high the wind or stormy the tempest.

"Our next thoughts must be of the unknown volunteers and soldiers of freedom who, without praise or reward, have served India even unto death.

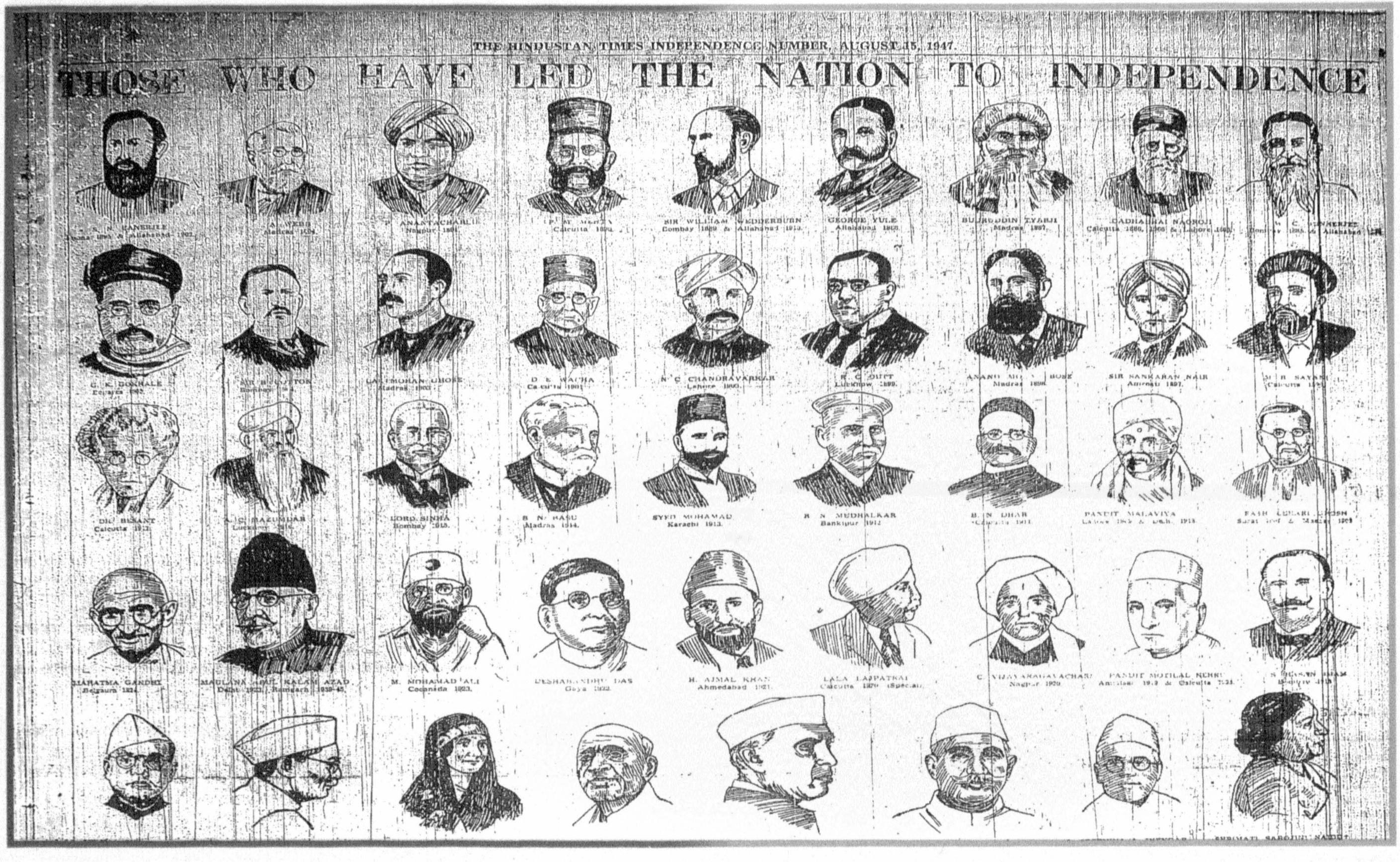
"We think also of our brothers and sisters who have been cut off from us by political boundaries and who unhappily cannot share at present in the freedom that has come. They are of us and will remain of us whatever may happen, and we shall be sharers in their good and ill fortune alike.

Attlee's Greetings To Nehru

My colleagues in the United Kingdom Government join with me in sending on this historic day greetings and good wishes to the Government and the people of India. It is our earnest wish that India may go forward in tranquillity and prosperity, and in so doing contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world, says Mr Attlee, British Prime Minister, in a message to Pandit Nehru.

Mr Attlee

Pandit Nehru's reply to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom said: On behalf of my colleagues in the Government of India and myself I wish to express our grateful thanks for your message of greeting on this historic day when India emerges into freedom. That freedom means much to us, but it also means much to Asia and the world. We hope to utilize that freedom for the advancement of our own people as well as for the furtherance of the peace and prosperity of the world.



THE HINDUSTAN TIMES INDEPENDENCE NUMBER, AUGUST 15, 1947.

THOSE WHO HAVE LED THE NATION TO INDEPENDENCE

S. N. BANERJEE
Poona 1895 & Allahabad 1902

A. WEBB
Madras 1894

P. ANANDACHARLU
Nagpur 1891

P. M. MEHTA
Calcutta 1890

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN
Bombay 1889 & Allahabad 1910

GEORGE YULE
Allahabad 1888

BUDRUDDIN TYABJI
Madras 1887

DADHABHAI NAOROJI
Calcutta 1886, 1906 & Lahore 1893

W. C. BONNERJEE
Bombay 1885 & Allahabad 1892

G. K. GOKHALE
Benares 1905

SIR H. COTTON
Bombay 1904

LALMOHAN GHOSE
Madras 1903

D. E. WACHA
Calcutta 1901

N. G. CHANDRAVARKAR
Lahore 1900

R. C. DUTT
Lucknow 1899

ANAND MOHAN BOSE
Madras 1898

SIR SANKARAN NAIR
Amraoti 1897

M. R. SAYANI
Calcutta 1896

DR. BESANT
Calcutta 1917

A. C. MAZUMDAR
Lucknow 1916

LORD SINHA
Bombay 1915

B. N. BASU
Madras 1914

SYED MOHAMAD
Karachi 1913

R. N. MUDHOLKAR
Bankipur 1912

B. N. DHAR
Calcutta 1911

PANDIT MALAVIYA
Lahore 1909 & Delhi 1918

RASH BEHARI GHOSH
Surat 1907 & Madras 1908

MAHATMA GANDHI
Belgaum 1924

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD
Delhi 1923 & Ramgarh 1939-45

M. MOHAMAD ALI
Cocanada 1923.

DESHABANDHU DAS
Gaya 1922

H. AJMAL KHAN
Ahmedabad 1921.

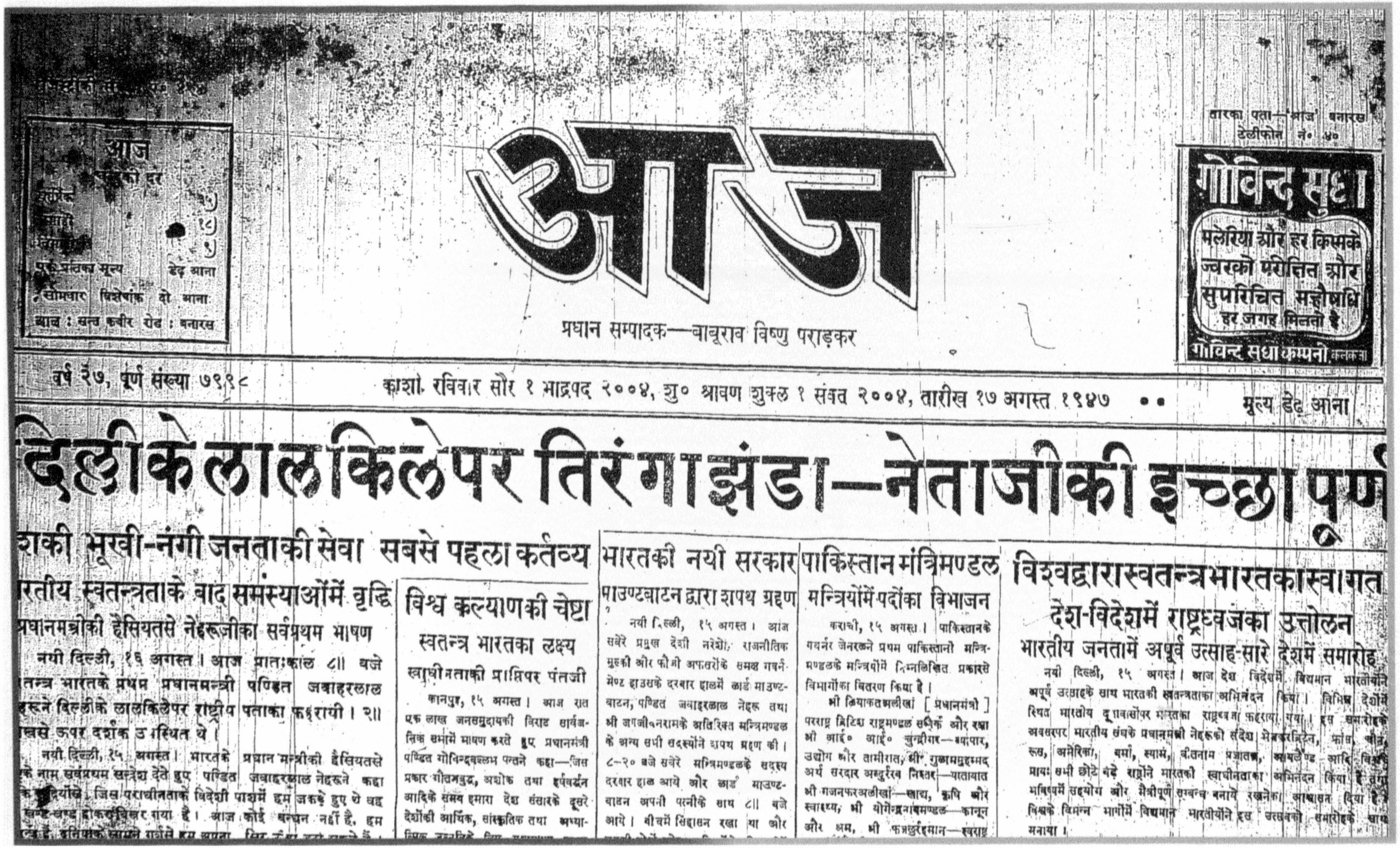
LALA LAJPATRAI
Calcutta 1920 (Special)

C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARI
Nagpur 1920

PANDIT MOTILAL NEHRU
Amritsar 1919 & Calcutta 1928

S. HASAN IMAM
Bombay 1918

SHRIMATI SAROJINI NAIDU



आज
की दर
वार्षिक ३५)
छमाही १८)
९)
एक प्रतिका मूल्य डेढ़ आना
सोमवार विशेषांक दो आना
आज : सन्त कबीर रोड : बनारस

आज

प्रधान सम्पादक—बाबूराव विष्णु पराड़कर

तारका पता—'आज' बनारस
टेलीफोन नं० ४०

गोविन्द सुधा
मलेरिया और हर किस्मके ज्वरको परीक्षित और सुपरिचित महौषधि
हर जगह मिलती है
गोविन्द सुधा कम्पनी, कलकत्ता

वर्ष २७, पूर्ण संख्या ७९१८ काशी, रविवार सौर १ भाद्रपद २००४, शु० श्रावण शुक्ल १ संवत २००४, तारीख १७ अगस्त १९४७ •• मूल्य डेढ़ आना

दिल्लीके लालकिलेपर तिरंगा झंडा—नेताजीकी इच्छा पूर्ण

शकी भूखी-नंगी जनताकी सेवा सबसे पहला कर्तव्य

रतीय स्वतन्त्रताके बाद समस्याओंमें वृद्धि

प्रधानमन्त्रीकी हैसियतसे नेहरूजीका सर्वप्रथम भाषण

नयी दिल्ली, १६ अगस्त। आज प्रातःकाल ८॥ बजे तन्त्र भारतके प्रथम प्रधानमन्त्री पण्डित जवाहरलाल हरूने दिल्लीके लालकिलेपर राष्ट्रीय पताका फहरायी। २॥ लाखसे ऊपर दर्शक उपस्थित थे।

नयी दिल्ली, १५ अगस्त। भारतके प्रधान मन्त्रीकी हैसियतसे के नाम सर्वप्रथम सन्देश देते हुए पण्डित जवाहरलाल नेहरूने कहा के [illegible]दियोंसे जिस पराधीनताके विदेशी पाशमें हम जकड़े हुए थे वह खण्ड-खण्ड होकर बिखर गया है। आज कोई बन्धन नहीं है, हम

विश्व कल्याणकी चेष्टा

स्वतन्त्र भारतका लक्ष्य

स्वाधीनताकी प्राप्तिपर पंतजी

कानपुर, १५ अगस्त। आज रात एक लाख जनसमुदायकी विराट सार्वजनिक सभामें भाषण करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री पण्डित गोविन्दवल्लभ पन्तने कहा—जिस प्रकार गौतमबुद्ध, अशोक तथा हर्षवर्द्धन आदिके समय हमारा देश संसारके दूसरे देशोंकी आर्थिक, सांस्कृतिक तथा आध्या-

भारतकी नयी सरकार

माउण्टबाटन द्वारा शपथ ग्रहण

नयी दिल्ली, १५ अगस्त। आज सबेरे प्रमुख देशी नरेशों, राजनीतिक मुल्की और फौजी अफसरोंके समक्ष गवर्नमेण्ट हाउसके दरबार हालमें लार्ड माउण्टबाटन, पण्डित जवाहरलाल नेहरू तथा श्री जगजीवनरामके अतिरिक्त मन्त्रिमण्डलके अन्य सभी सदस्योंने शपथ ग्रहण की। ८-२० बजे सबेरे मन्त्रिमण्डलके सदस्य दरबार हाल आये और लार्ड माउण्टबाटन अपनी पत्नीके साथ ८॥ बजे आये। बीचमें सिंहासन रखा था और

पाकिस्तान मंत्रिमण्डल

मन्त्रियोंमें पदोंका विभाजन

कराची, १५ अगस्त। पाकिस्तानके गवर्नर जेनरलने प्रथम पाकिस्तानी मन्त्रिमण्डलके मन्त्रियोंमें निम्नलिखित प्रकारसे विभागोंका वितरण किया है।

श्री लियाकतअलीखां [प्रधानमंत्री] परराष्ट्र ब्रिटिश राष्ट्रमण्डल सम्पर्क और रक्षा श्री आई० आई० चुन्द्रीगर—व्यापार, उद्योग और तामीरात; श्री गुलाममुहम्मद अर्थ सरदार अब्दुर्रब निश्तर—यातायात श्री गजनफरअलीखां—खाद्य, कृषि और स्वास्थ्य; श्री योगेन्द्रनाथमण्डल—कानून और श्रम, श्री फजलुर्रहमान—स्वराष्ट्र

विश्वद्वारा स्वतन्त्र भारतका स्वागत

देश-विदेशमें राष्ट्रध्वजका उत्तोलन

भारतीय जनतामें अपूर्व उत्साह-सारे देशमें समारोह

नयी दिल्ली, १५ अगस्त। आज देश विदेशमें विद्यमान भारतीयोंने अपूर्व उत्साहके साथ भारतकी स्वतन्त्रताका अभिनंदन किया। विभिन्न देशोंमें स्थित भारतीय दूतावासोंपर भारतका राष्ट्रध्वज फहराया गया। इस समारोहके अवसरपर भारतीय संघके प्रधानमंत्री नेहरूको संदेश भेजकर ब्रिटेन, फ्रांस, चीन, रूस, अमेरिका, बर्मा, स्याम, वीतनाम प्रजातन्त्र, आयर्लैण्ड आदि विश्व प्रायः सभी छोटे बड़े राष्ट्रोंने भारतकी स्वाधीनताका अभिनन्दन किया है तथ भविष्यमें सहयोग और मैत्रीपूर्ण सम्बन्ध बनाये रखनेका आश्वासन दिया है। विश्वके विभिन्न भागोंमें विद्यमान भारतीयोंने इस उत्सवको समारोहके साथ मनाया।

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प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय मासि
कमल
विशेषांक प्रकाशित हो गया रेल्वे स्ट
तथा अपने एजेंट से खरीदें, या १) भे
कर मंगायें। नेताओं के विचार, कहानिय
राष्ट्रीय ध्वजा, बालकों, महिलाओं के लि
मूल्य विशेषांक १), साधारण
वार्षिक चंदा ५) भेजने पर विशेषांक मुफ
कमल वकीलपुरा, दिल्ली

वर्ष १४ अङ्क २२६ * नई दिल्ली, रविवार, श्रावण सौर ३२, २००४ NEW DELHI, SUNDAY AUGUST 17, 1947 * मूल्य एक आना

स्वाधीनता-प्राप्ति के उपलक्ष में देशव्यापी समारोह

करोड़ों नर-नारी नई आशा व उमंग से उल्लसित

दिल्ली में स्वाधीनता-समारोह के अभूतपूर्व दृश्य

लाल किले पर राष्ट्रीय झण्डा फहराया गया : लाखों नर-नारियों द्वारा पं० जवाहरलाल नेहरू तथा लार्ड माउंटबैटन का राजसी स्वागत

भारतीय विधान-परिषद द्वारा शासन-सत्ता ग्रहण करने के बाद ही सारे देश में उत्साह व उल्लास छा गया। १५ अगस्त को भारत के समस्त नगरों, कस्बों तथा गांवों में स्वाधीनता-दिवस बड़े समारोह व शान से मनाया गया।

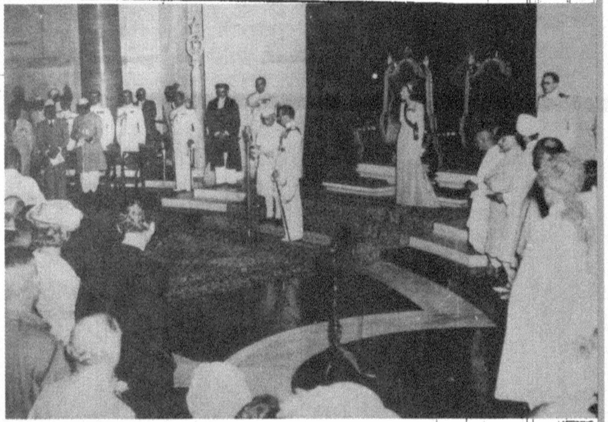
भारत से बाहर भी १५ अगस्त का दिन बड़ी खुशी व उमंग से मनाया गया। मास्को और वाशिंगटन के भारतीय दूतावासों पर तिरंगे झण्डे फहराये गये और श्रीमती पंडित तथा श्री आसफअली ने इस अवसर पर भाषण दिये।

१५ तथा १६ अगस्त को भारत की राजधानी में स्वतंत्रता-समारोह की जो ऐतिहासिक घटनाएं हुई हैं वे अमर रहेंगी। इस अभूतपूर्व समारोह का प्रारम्भ १५ ता० के सबेरे ८ बजे गवर्नर जनरल, प्रधान मन्त्री व अन्य मंत्रियों

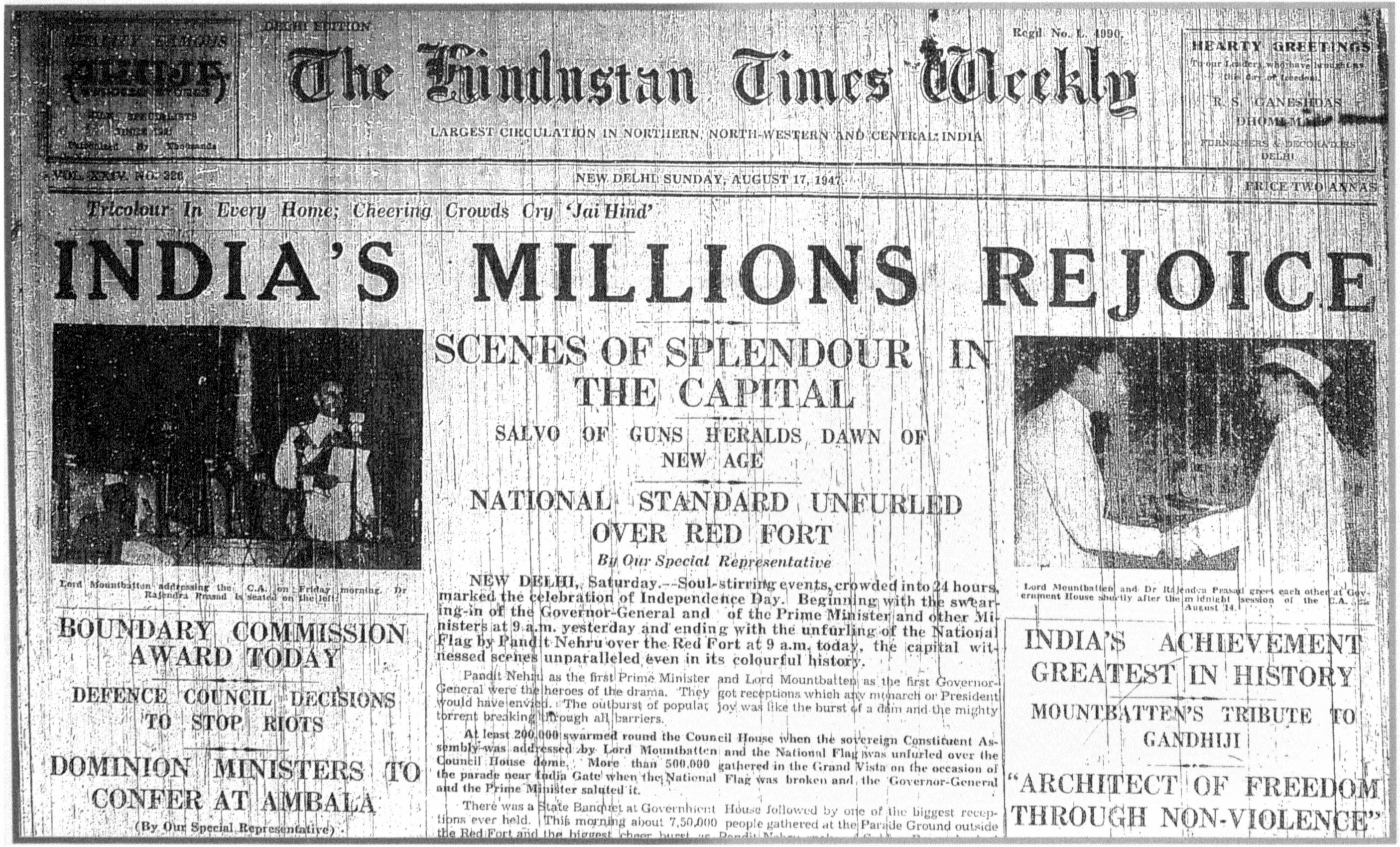
कानपुर जिला जेल में कल स्वतंत्रता समारोह के सम्बन्ध में १५० बन्दी रिहा किये गये। विदित हुआ है कि शीघ्र ही लगभग २०० और बन्दी मुक्त किये जायेंगे।

अलीगढ़

अलीगढ़ में गांधी मैदान, पुलिस लाइन्स, जिला कांग्रेस कमेटी कार्यालय तथा समस्त सरकारी भवनों पर झंडे लगाने के पश्चात् नगर कांग्रेस कमेटी के कार्यालय से प्रभात फेरियां निकाली गयीं। अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम विश्वविद्यालय के चबूतरे पर विश्वविद्यालय के वाइस चांसलर ने राष्ट्रीय झंडा फहराया। लायल लाइब्रेरी से एक विशाल जुलूस निकाला गया तथा तीसरे पहर ३ बजे तक सार्वजनिक सभा हुई। नगर को खूब सजाया गया और रात को रोशनी की गई।



शुक्रवार को सबेरे लार्ड माउन्टबेटन वैधानिक गवर्नर-जनरल के पद की शपथ ग्रहण कर रहे हैं।



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VOL. XXIV. NO. 226
NEW DELHI, SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 1947.
PRICE TWO ANNAS

Tricolour In Every Home; Cheering Crowds Cry 'Jai Hind'

INDIA'S MILLIONS REJOICE

Lord Mountbatten addressing the C.A. on Friday morning. Dr Rajendra Prasad is seated on the left.

SCENES OF SPLENDOUR IN THE CAPITAL

SALVO OF GUNS HERALDS DAWN OF NEW AGE

NATIONAL STANDARD UNFURLED OVER RED FORT

By Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Saturday.—Soul-stirring events, crowded into 24 hours, marked the celebration of Independence Day. Beginning with the swearing-in of the Governor-General and of the Prime Minister and other Ministers at 9 a.m. yesterday and ending with the unfurling of the National Flag by Pandit Nehru over the Red Fort at 9 a.m. today, the capital witnessed scenes unparalleled even in its colourful history.

Pandit Nehru as the first Prime Minister and Lord Mountbatten as the first Governor-General were the heroes of the drama. They got receptions which any monarch or President would have envied. The outburst of popular joy was like the burst of a dam and the mighty torrent breaking through all barriers.

At least 200,000 swarmed round the Council House when the sovereign Constituent Assembly was addressed by Lord Mountbatten and the National Flag was unfurled over the Council House dome. More than 500,000 gathered in the Grand Vista on the occasion of the parade near India Gate when the National Flag was broken and the Governor-General and the Prime Minister saluted it.

There was a State Banquet at Government House followed by one of the biggest receptions ever held. This morning about 7,50,000 people gathered at the Parade Ground outside the Red Fort and the biggest cheer burst

BOUNDARY COMMISSION AWARD TODAY

DEFENCE COUNCIL DECISIONS TO STOP RIOTS

DOMINION MINISTERS TO CONFER AT AMBALA

(By Our Special Representative)

Lord Mountbatten and Dr Rajendra Prasad greet each other at Government House shortly after the midnight session of the C.A. on August 14.

INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENT GREATEST IN HISTORY

MOUNTBATTEN'S TRIBUTE TO GANDHIJI

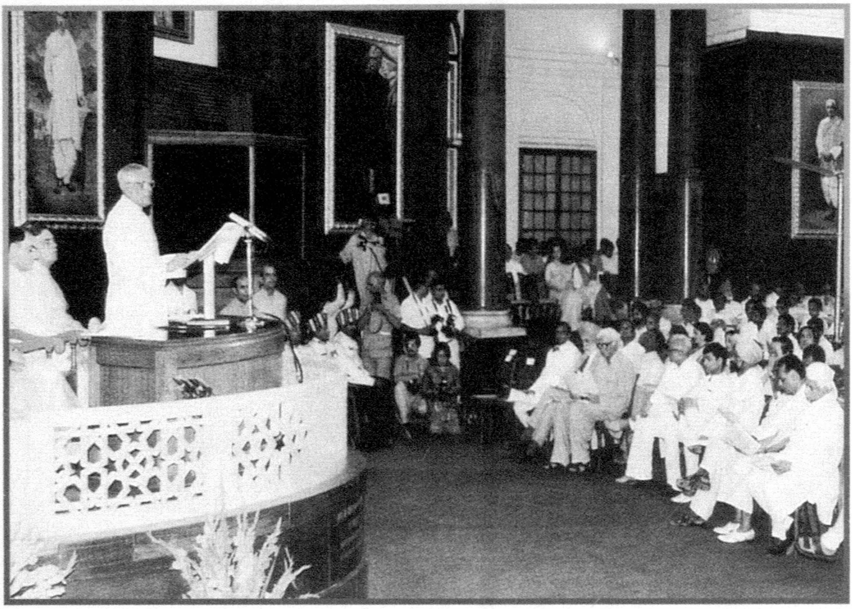
"ARCHITECT OF FREEDOM THROUGH NON-VIOLENCE"

COMMEMORATIVE FUNCTIONS IN PARLIAMENT ON THE 25TH, 40TH AND 50TH ANNIVERSARIES OF INDEPENDENCE

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE OF INDI

Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi addressing the distinguished gathering in the Central Hall on the midnight of 14-15 August 1972 on the 25th Anniversary of Independence. On the dais are the President of India, Shri V.V. Giri; the Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri G.S. Pathak; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Dr. G.S. Dhillon.

To commemorate the 25th Anniversary of India's Independence, a function was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House on the midnight of 14-15 August 1972. The National Anthem was played at the commencement of the function. The President of India, Shri V.V. Giri; the Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri G.S. Pathak; the Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Dr. G.S. Dhillon, addressed the gathering of freedom fighters, members of the Constituent Assembly, Union Ministers, members of Parliament and other dignitaries. The distinguished assembly observed two minutes' silence in memory of those who laid down their lives during the struggle for Independence. The National Anthem was played at the end.



The President, Shri R. Venkataraman, addressing the distinguished gathering in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 13 August 1987 at the function to mark the 40th Anniversary of India's Independence. On the dais are the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar.

On 13 August 1987, a Commemorative Function was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House to mark the 40th Anniversary of India's Independence. The President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman; the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar; and the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, addressed the distinguished gathering.

The function commenced with the playing of the National Anthem. Thereafter, a rendering of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's speech *Tryst with destiny* was played. Later, the assembly stood in silence for two minutes in memory of the martyrs who laid down their lives for Independence. The function concluded with the playing of the National Anthem.

The President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, addressing the distinguished gathering on the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence in the Central Hall of Parliament House on the midnight of 14-15 August 1997. Also seen in the picture are the Union Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Speaker of the British House of Commons, Ms. Betty Boothroyd; and the Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai.

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Independence, a Commemorative Function was held on the midnight of 14-15 August 1997 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, addressed the august gathering. The Hindi version of the Address by the President was read out by the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral.

The function commenced with the playing of the National Anthem. Later, the distinguished invitees stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs in the cause of India's Independence. This was followed by a rendering of the National Song *Vande Mataram* by Pandit Bhimsen Joshi. Subsequently, excerpts from the speeches of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were played. After that, the patriotic song, *Sare Jahan Se Achcha, Hindustan Hamara,* was sung by Lata Mangeshkar. The historic function concluded with the playing of the National Anthem.

Another function to mark the conclusion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Independence was held in the Central hall on 15 August 1998. The President, Shri K.R. Narayanan, addressed the distinguished gathering on the occasion. The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant, read out the Hindi version of the Address by the President.